FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 27 SEP

JN271649 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met this afternoon under leader Abu 'Ammar. Current developments in the local, Arab and international spheres were discussed. The PLO Executive Committee also heard several reports from the occupied homeland. Members of the PLO Executive Committee then reviewed recent developments in the Palestine question in both the Arab and international arenas. The situation in southern Lebanon was also discussed in detail. The PLO's recent Arab and international contacts were also reviewed during today's meeting.

'ARAFAT ACCEPTS FRENCH CP INVITATION TO VISIT FRANCE

JN280901 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 28 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Last night, brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with a French Communist Party delegation headed by Comrade (Maxime Germain), member of the French Communist Party Politburo, and Comrade (Jacques Golanne). The meeting was attended by Comrade Nadim 'Abd as-Samad and Comrade George Batal, members of the Lebanese Communist Party Politburo.

Comrade (Maxime Germain) gave brother Abu 'Ammar the text of the official invitation to visit France extended by Georges Marchais, French Communist Party secretary general. Brother Abu 'Ammar accepted the invitation and agreement was reached on a date. The brother commander in chief confirmed the strong relations existing between the PLO and the French Communist Party. A review was made of the situation in the Arab area, particularly current developments in the international arena in regard to increasing international admission of the failure of the Camp David accords and confirmation of the basic importance of the Palestinian issue in any efforts exerted for peace.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES GDR DELEGATION, HOSTS DINNER

JN271026 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Yesterday evening, brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, received a GDR solidarity delegation comprising Comrade (Kryger), head of the German solidarity committee; and Comrade (Ted Jasit), deputy chief of the SED International Relations Department. Brother Abu 'Ammar hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the GDR delegation. The dinner was attended by the GDR ambassador to Lebanon and the embassy staff. On the Palestinian side, the dinner was attended by PLO Executive Committee members brothers Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad; Fatah Central Committee members Abu Iyad, Abu Salih and Abu Jihad; and other Palestinian revolution officials.

Delegation Visits Institutions

JN271027 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] The GDR delegation visited the As-Samid factories in the south, An-Na'imah and Ad-Damur yesterday morning. In the afternoon, the delegation visited the As-Samid factories in Burg al-Barajinah, where they met with Palestinian workers.

A special celebration was then held on the occasion of the 30th GDR anniversary. The official in charge of the As-Samid organization delivered a speech in which he praised the solid relations between the Palestinian revolution and the GDR, and outlined the constant GDR support for the Palestinian revolution in its legitimate and just struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The GDR Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee secretary general delivered a speech afterward. He stressed the Palestinian revolution's inevitable victory and pointed to the relations between the two sides, stressing that they are special relations based on mutual understanding and struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. He thanked brother Abu 'Ammar for inviting the GDR delegation to visit the Palestinian revolution and to become acquainted with its achievements.

'Arafat Addresses Beirut Rally

JN272023 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

["Text" of speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a rally in Beirut on 27 September on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the GDR--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, we all stand in one trench aimed primarily against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism. Together with our true allies in the GDR, in the socialist bloc and, together with the Soviet Union, we all stand in this trench which is hostile to imperialist, Zionist, colonialist and fascist practices as well as against all racial discrimination.

We are all against this U.S.-led conspiracy which is aimed against all humanity. We are all against this conspiracy led by the Camp David partners aimed at our Palestinian and Lebanese masses, and against the entire Arab nation and all free and progressive men as well. We in southern Lebanon, Palestinian and Lebanese fighters and the great Syrian eagles, are fighting, but we don't feel we are fighting alone. We realize that we are backed by our GDR friends, true allies. We are certain that through this friendship and this strong pact we can challenge imperialism and Zionism. We challenge all their lackies in our area.

Comrades, for 30 years now we've been standing in this advanced trench,and together we've been struggling against the imperialist tyranny. Today, before our true allies, I would like to tell the whole world in your name that regardless of all maneuvers, plans or conspiracies the ones who really determine the future of this area are the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in southern Lebanon. [long applause]

Brothers, they have recently been polishing the Camp David accords. We wonder what they have really achieved. Nothing, of course, iIt is true that the enemy has been occupying our homeland, Palestine, for 30 years now and that they have been in southern Lebanon for 3 years. Yet, the fact is that they have failed to find a lackey. They have failed. We are wagering on our Palestinian-Lebanese people in our battle against the self-rule plot in the West Bank, as well as against all suspicious attempts in southern Lebanon.

The road is still long and full of hardships. We realize this, and we are sure that our friends and comrades in the GDR and the socialist bloc know this very well. Brothers, the enemy thought that through their puppet As-Sadat the entire area would yield to their will. Yet, this legendary steadfastness of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement [words indistinct]. This was an attempt to weaken the area and make it accept the Camp David accords. Brothers, this Palestinian-Lebanese gun, this firm Arab will, will triumph, will triumph, will triumph. [applause]

Comrades in the GDR, Comrade Erich Honecker, your allies and friends who are standing in this advanced trench against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism, your allies and friends are determined to continue the march. We will continue together until victory, until victory, until victory.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES ISLAMIC CONGRESS SECRETARY

JN280903 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 28 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Last night, brother leader Abu 'Ammar received brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim, secretary general of the Islamic Congress. Brother Abu 'Ammar and his guest had dinner together. It was attended by brothers Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, Ahmad Sudqi ad-Dajani, Walid Qamhawi and Hisham Mustafa. At the meeting, a review was made of the current situation in the Palestinian revolution and the Israeli desecration of holy places in the occupied land.

'ARAFAT GRADUATES CLASS OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISORS

JN261749 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 26 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Last night, leader Abu 'Ammar graduated a class of administrative supervisors of the Palestinian revolution. Addressing the graduates, leader Abu 'Ammar underlined the importance of administration and planning in the Palestinian revolution's struggle against Zionism and all hostile designs. Referring to the Palestinian revolution's past experience, especially that derived from our confrontation war with the Zionist enemy in the last year, leader Abu 'Ammar noted the importance of planning and administration in such circumstances. He also praised the Palestinian forces' ability to adapt to various circumstances and difficulties. Leader Abu 'Ammar urged the graduates to further enrich their knowledge and experience in their field in order to maintain a good and prompt performance so we can cope with all challenges in all military, political, cultural and information fields.

FATAH'S ABU MAZIN COMMENTS ON CARTER STATEMENT

JN261618 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 26 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin, Fatah Central Committee member, has refuted President Carter's allegations that Arab leaders do not favor the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Abu Mazin emphasized that Carter's statements are groundless. He added that we are not so naive and [word indistinct] to accept what we don't want, for we know very well how to defend and preserve our own interests. If the U.S. administration is really willing to contact the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of our people, then we welcome such a meeting, provided there will be no preconditions, such as recognizing UN Resolution 242, for we don't believe this resolution concerns us at all.

In conclusion, Abu Mazin reaffirmed that statements and flowery words are not the right method to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland. Words and statements should be translated into real action. Abu Mazin's statements came in an interview with the Saudi Daily AR-RIYADH published yesterday.

ABU MAYZAR MEETS SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS

JN271656 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member and official spokesman, this morning met with the Spanish ambassador in Damascus. Abu Mayzar and the ambassador reviewed current events in the Arab area and Palestinian-Spanish relations. They also discussed better ways to further promote bilateral relations, particularly in light of leader Abu 'Ammar's recent visit to Madrid. The meeting was friendly and cordial.

GROUP REJECTS UN PARTICIPATION IN CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

JN251208 Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 25 Sep 79 JN

[Text] United Nations, 25 September--The Arab group in the United Nations has delegated the Qatari UN permanent representative, Jasim Yusif Jamal, and the UAE, Syrian, Jordanian and Kuwaiti UN representatives to inform UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim that the Arab group rejects all attempts to have the United Nations participate in the implementation of the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The QNA correspondent at the United Nations adds that the Arab group has also decided to send a memorandum to the UN Security Council president. The memorandum will be delivered by the Qatari UN representative and contains an explanation of the Arab viewpoint on this subject. This viewpoint is based on the rejection of UN participation in any steps or measures resulting from the Camp David agreements. The Arab group also decided that the Qatari representative will contact all Security Council members for the same purpose.

In a statement to QNA after a 2-hour Arab group meeting yesterday, Jasim Yusif Jamal said that the meeting was an extension of a previous one the Arab group held last Friday, at the request of the Kuwaiti UN permanent representative. Dr Waldheim had informed the Kuwaiti representative about developments in the UN observers' mission in Sinai since the signing of the Camp David agreements. Jasim Yusif Jamal added that the Arab group studied the subject carefully and made a decision based on the resolutions adopted by the Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad. This conference stressed the Arabs' rejection of UN participation in the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

PALESTINIANS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEL AVIV EXPLOSION

JN271147 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Before noon today, one of our special groups operating inside the occupied territories detonated highly explosive timebombs in the Karmel Market in Tel Aviv. The explosion resulted in heavy material losses in a number of shops. An unidentified number of enemy personnel were injured as well.

The explosion created a state of chaos and terror among the Zionists. Occupation forces evacuated the area in the fear that there might be other bombs that had not yet detonated. Police set up roadblocks and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext that they were suspects. Our fighters returned safely to base.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY NOT SUBJECTED TO FOREIGN THREATS

JN280852 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 28 Sep--Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad has affirmed that his country is not presently subjected to any real foreign threats. In a statement published today in the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, the information minister said: The statements made by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil on Iranian threats against the Gulf states affirm that Bahrain enjoys Arab and regional support on all levels, and reaffirms the Arab stand which will not permit any foreign interference in any Arab state's internal affairs.

KUWAIT

AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD280921 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Sep 79 p 3 LD

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid yesterday received in his office Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Soviet Union 'Adil al-Jarrah who arrived in the country the day before yesterday on a brief visit, during which he will hold talks with senior officials on the freindly relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union. Al-Jarrah told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Kuwaiti-Soviet relations are strong and that there is a desire to develop them in various fields. The ambassador said that the Soviet Union is striving to strengthen its relations with the Gulf states and that it sides with the Arab nation in the struggle against the Israeli enemy.

The ambassador was asked about claims in the light of the SALT II agreement that the United States and the Soviet Union are pursing a policy of detente in regard to dividing the world--particularly Africa and the Middle East--between them. He said that this was not true and that Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko has explained his country's stand in detail at a press conference. Gromyko affirmed that his country assigns priorities to and has particular interest in all world problems.

Asked whether the Soviet Union supports taking the Palestinian problem back to Geneva, he said that he does not believe so because the Soviets believe that the Geneva Conference is finished in the wake of the Camp David agreements. The Soviet Union wants a solution to the Middle East crisis acceptable to the Arab counties, a solution that would restore for the Palestinians their legitimate rights. He said that the Soviet Union will not abandon the Arab cause and that every Arab delegation that has visited Moscow has felt this support. Asked whether he thinks the Soviet foreign minister will visit the area shortly, the ambassador said he has no information in this regard.

It is recalled that the Soviet prime minister recently visited Aden and India. It is worth noting that before visiting the country, the ambassador had several meetings with Soviet officials.

AMBASSADOR TO IRAN RETURNING FOR CONSULTATIONS

LD280856 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Sep 79 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--A Kuwaiti paper said today that Kuwait's ambassador to Iran will arrive here on 30 September for consultations about relations between the two countries, and the situation in the Gulf region.

In a report it attributed to informed sources, AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that the ambassador, Ahmad al-Jasim, will meet during his visit with the heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah; the defense minister and acting foreign minister, Salim as-Sabah; and a number of senior government officials. The paper said that throughout this week Al-Jasim was in "constant" touch with the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry "to learn about the latest developments in the situation in the region."

This report came 2 days after the deportation by Kuwait of a clergyman of Iranian origin, Abbas al-Mahri, and 18 members of his family to Iran after being accused of practicing illegal political activities.

OMAN

PFLO STATEMENT ON PLAN TO PROTECT HORMUZ STRAIT

LD272030 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brothers, a responsible source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] has made the following statement:

The leadership of the Omani revolution has (?exposed all) the designs and conspiracies being hatched against Oman and the Arabian Gulf, as well as the series of suspicious moves being carried out by the Anglo-American imperialists and their agents in Muscat. The stories put about by the sultanate and Western quarters regarding the existence of a plan to close the Straits of Hormuz are nothing but lies and fabricated allegations designed to justify foreing intervention--that is, U.S. military intervention--in the Arabian Gulf area. (?These) spurious allegations recently [word indistinct] the U.S. plan put to the Gulf states by the Sultanate of Oman that colonialist military alliances be set up in the area through collusion with the imperialist forces, headed by the United States, which in actual fact has already started sending experts and advance units from the forces to the Omani island of Al-Masirah.

The U.S. military presence and the continued existence of a regime such as that of Qabus in Muscat constitute a great danger to the area. We in the Popular Front are struggling and continuously calling for the liberation of the Sultanate of Oman from foreign presence and for keeping the Gulf area far from any military alliances and any foreign military presence. Only through this will we achieve genuine security and stability, including (?peace) in the passages and so forth. The recent invitation extended by the Sultanate of Oman is really a U.S. invitation. The invitation has been rejected and denounced by Arab Gulf states such as Iraq and Kuwait. It must be rejected by other states, too. Moreover, the Muscat regime's blatant perpetration of acts hostile to the peoples of the area must, in our view, be punished and must be met with a deterrent more effective than mere denunciation and condemnation, the least (?of which should be) the expulsion of the Muscat regime from the Arab League and a withdrawal of any backing or support by the Arab states.

That statement was issued on behalf of the PFLO.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD PRAISES AIR FORCE ON ANNIVERSARY

LD271642 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister, attended a military parade this morning to mark the seventh anniversary of the air force and air defense.

In an important speech on the occasion, brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: The role of our armed forces, air force and air defense in Democratic Yemen is linked with the heroic feats and valiant battles of our armed forces in the defense of the revolution and its gains. He added: Over the years, an air force has been created with new blood and modern weapons. We had a right to set up such a force and to guarantee its capacity to defend the homeland.

He paid tribute to the role played by men of the air force on the morning of 26 June last year, when they set out to defend the revolutionary gains that had almost been nipped in the bud by the opportunist left. He also paid tribute to their role in repulsing the scattered remnants of the mercenaries and the acts of aggression perpetrated by reactionary forces.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad warned that our revolution will remain exposed to aggression. There was therefore an imperative need for vigilance, a high level of combat readiness and a keen interest in training. He praised the internationalist aid extended by the USSR in various psheres of the economy and in the defense of the revolution, which have enabled us to achieve victory in all our battles.

In another speech, brother Maj Abdullah Ilaywah, commander of the air force, stressed that the interest of the Yemen Socialist Party and the government of the revolution in the armed forces, one of the fundamental military institutions, is amply demonstrated by the fact that they have supplied them with modern and advanced weapons and have developed them on the basis of scientific socialism.

In his speech, he reviewed the phases of development of the air force in Democratic Yemen and referred to the attention given to the armed forces after the 22 June movement.

Before the military parade, brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad presented certificates of merit and shields to prize-winning units. The air force and air defense presented a commemorative gift to brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad then opened the Military Glory Hall where the achievements of the air force are exhibited. In an entry in the visitors book, he described his impressions of the photographs he saw in the hall depicting the splendid heroic feats of the air force and air defense.

The military parade was attended by brother Salih Abubakr Husaynun, member of the Central Committee and chief of the general staff of the armed forces, commanders of units and corps in the armed forces and secretaries of the army party committees.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH RADIO VIEWS HUSAYN'S STAND ON MIDEAST

LD272252 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan has said peace in the Middle East cannot be realized except through the United Nations and granting the Palestinians the freedom of choice to define their future. The statements of the Jordanian sovereign, who is currently in the United States to attend the meeting of the UN General Assembly, reaffirm his country's attitude not to recognize the unilateral peace operation, which Jordan considers--like the majority of the Arab nation--to be futile and not qualified at all to realize peace. This is because it is an agreement which has given the Israelis everything without obliging them to give anything in return.

This stand by Jordan has led to a cooling of relations between Amman and Washington. But this has not prevented--as the Jordanian king said--the continuation of cooperation within the framework of mutual interests despite the fact that the U.S. administration has objected to including along with tanks, which Jordan intended to purchase from the United States, apparatus of a highly advanced nature which clearly defines targets at night, and at a time when Israel is supplied with such equipment. This caused Jordan to cancel the deal.

The Jordanian sovereign linked this attitude with the U.S. administration's attitude vis-a-vis the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict and said that U.S. policy still favors Israel and that such a policy will inevitably affect the ability of President Carter's administration to help in the negotiations for the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

The Jordanian monarch's lack of optimism has reflected an increasing Arab feeling that the achievement of a just and lasting solution depends on the extent of the ability of the U.S. stand to deal with the question from the starting point of moderation and a correct understanding of Palestinian rights, since the Palestinians are the essence of the question. This feeling has never been and will never be absent from the conscience of the U.S. people.

Despite the concentrated attempts by Zionism that aim to continuously maintain a barrier to prevent Americans from seeing the truth, there has recently been an increasing interest in the U.S. arena calling for the necessity of recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as a basis for achieving a just and lasting solution to the problem. This gives rise to optimism that the attitude of the U.S. administration will inevitably respond to this desire if the will is available to adopt attitudes which are more just.

RIYADH RADIO COMMENTS ON 'STRATEGIC SECURITY' IN GULF

LD272108 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Hashim Abdu Hashim commentary]

[Text] Once again, the following question has arisen: Who protects the Gulf area from probable dangers? Once more, voices in the Gulf are being raised reaffirming rejection of any form of foreign interference in the region and stressing that the sons of the region alone are more capable and more worthy of protecting this region.

In recent years, the region has witnessed many bitter psychological wars that aimed at undermining the determination of the region's sons and at weakening their capabilities in order to make it possible to control the region's destiny. But such questions are now being asked when the Arab nation has become, in the big powers' view, the number one force of resistance to their ambitions and the source of direct rejection of their presence which is wrapped up in imaginary interests. This is what they have done following the failure of all policies, plans and efforts that aim at controlling the region and exploiting the breaches in the Arab ranks in order to conspire, intrigue and break up the ranks. The strategic security of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula makes it imperative that we should be vigilant and aware of all the foreign attempts currently being made to obtain footholds which do not serve the interests, sovereignty and independence of this nation and which contravene the national aspirations of getting rid of all forms of occupation, interference or practices which are pressuring the will of the states and peoples of the region, in any way or form.

Perhaps the big powers, before anyone else, realize that the security and peace in the region cannot be divorced from the vital question of independence; they should also realize that the best assistance they can give us is to leave this region alone to be run by its own people, reduce their ambitions, get rid of their expansionist policies and stop the rivalry among themselves to dominate the vital regions of the world within the framework of a policy of building direct defense lines to protect their own interests and avoiding surprise blows.

Black Africa suffered a great deal and large parts of Asia are still suffering from the heavy burden of foreign bases; monitoring and observation centers are located on them. The affairs of these areas will not become stable, and peace and properity will not prevail in them unless the foreign forces leave and stop their conflicts and continual wars that aim at dominating them. Only then will the sons of these parts be able to build with their own capabilities away from the bitter rivalries that go on between the various powers.

The states of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula, while realizing all this, are anxious to replace any assistance which may be offered to them to face any probable danger with their own solidarity and cooperation.

UAE

PAPER SAYS SYRIAN-ISRAELI DOGFIGHT BOOSTS ARAB RESISTANCE

LD271541 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Sep 79 p 1 LD

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] While Israeli planes have been breaking the sound barrier in Lebanese skies, the Syrian planes have broken the barrier of Arab silence over the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon. Yesterday's dogfight has proved this fact and removed the impression that Arab reaction to Israeli violations and provocations in Lebanese skies is nonexistent.

The dogfight took place while the U.S. secretary of state was addressing the General Assembly about the need for a truce in Lebanon. Before Vance finished his speech, the U.S.-made Israeli F-15s were flying in Lebanese skies making a laughingstock of the U.S. secretary's proposal. The Syrian answer to the Israeli violation proves the futility of relying on political pressure in the face of Israeli arrogance and shows that resistance is the effective means of stopping Israeli penetration of Arab territories. Those who judge the outcome of the battle by the number of planes lost or hit ignore the battle's moral significance--namely, that it inculcates in the Arab citizen's spirit the will to resist until the day comes for a final reckoning with an enemy who understands only the language of force, understands only that what was taken by force can be taken back only by force.

YAR

SAUDI MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT SALIH

JN271945 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

["Text" of interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih published in the Saudi magazine IQRA' on 27 September--place and date of interview not given; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: What steps have you taken to develop the armed forces?

Answer: Our army and police forces are witnessing a new positive developing phase which we started after a detailed study of the armed forces' formations, organization and commandership. We have stressed quality before quantity and worked to diversify the sources of our weapons and to modernize them. We have modernized all statutes and military training and developed military school curricula and stressed aims [words indistinct] to run parallel with national defense laws and regulations.

Question: It seems that unity efforts have stopped following the Kuwait meeting and the unity committee's activities. Are there any future plans to activate these efforts?

Answer: Efforts to achieve unity have not stopped and will not stop. They come in response to the people's will. No one can foil the people's will or shirk his duties in achieving it. The activities of the unity committee, which comes from both parts of Yemen, are continuing. They will resume their meetings according to the timetable agreed on to prepare for future steps. This issue needs time because it is not an offhand venture, but this will not be a long time.

Question: A lot has been said about the security of the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait being a strategic zone in the Arab-Zionist conflict and a winning card in the hands of the Arab states. What are the Arabs doing to safeguard this important strait in case of a military confrontation in this area?

Answer: The security of the Red Sea means the security of the region and its peoples. Every state values its security. We care for the Red Sea and work to keep it away from international conflicts and foreign supremacy. We are more interested because we are at Bab al-Mandab, which is a strategic zone [words indistinct] not only in our conflict with Israel but in securing our existence and its safety. It is our duty as Arabs to manifest our interest in the Red Sea in [word indistinct] and cooperation in exploiting its wealth in the interest of the region's people and in establishing it as a peaceful sea where no conflicts and international confrontations happen.

Question: The Middle East, and southern Lebanon in particular, is witnessing [word indistinct] political events these days. Do you believe that an Arab summit can improve the situation and ease the tension?

Answer: I am an optimist. Yes, if the summit is preceded by a unified stand on the part of the Palestinian and Lebanese people inside Lebanese territory. [passage indistinct]

Question: Disputes have erupted lately among the Arab Maghreb states over the Sahara issue. This means that clashes are possible among brothers and that Arab blood will be shed again. In your opinion, how can this problem be ended?

Answer: It pains us to see a dispute between any two fraternal Arab states. It pains us more to see disputes turn into clashes at a time when we are in greater need of solidarity, joint efforts and the massing of our potential on one front to face our destiny and our fateful battle against the intractable Israeli enemy. We know that the brothers in the Arab Maghreb appreciate the circumstances. We are sure that they will not let the rift widen. They will solve the problem peacefully.

Question: How do you describe the relations between Saudi Arabia and the YAR? What are your expectations?

Answer: Our relations with Saudi Arabia are excellent because they stem from the two peoples' interests.

COMMUNIQUE ON AUTONOMY TALKS READ AT PRESS CONFERENCE

NC271418 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1328 GMT 27 September 79 NC

[Opening statement delivered by unidentified speaker at 27 September press conference in Alexandria at conclusion of sixth round of autonomy talks; read in English with superimposed Arabic translation--recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: I would like to thank the distinguished delegations from Israel and the United States who have participated in this session. We have reached agreement on what we will be reading in this statement. After that, we will open the press conference for your questions.

The following is the communique:

The committee held its sixth session in Alexandria. The working groups concerned with the question of the elections in the West Bank and Gaza reviewed the reports which were prepared by the subcommittees. The working committee concerned with the elections will continue its work in order to fulfill its aspirations. However, the committee will continue its work on the report pertaining to the jurisdictions of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. These are the measures which will govern the agreements that will be reached concerning the situation in the West Bank through the negotiations.

The working group has authorized the formation of branch groups from the three delegations. The three delegations will be represented in these branch groups. During the next phase of the negotiations on 15 October, meetings of the working groups will be held in Alexandria and then there will be another meeting in Herzliyya and a meeting of another working group in Alexandria. On 5 [sentence incomplete] efforts must continue to bring about the participation of the Palestinians in the negotiations in the interest of the Palestinian question.

MENA English Version

NC271506 Cairo MENA in English 1455 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Text] Alexandria, Sep 27 (MENA)--Head of the Egyptian delegation to the autonomous government negotiations Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, and head of the Israeli delegation Interior Minister Yosef Burg held a press conference at the end of the sixth round of negotiations here today.

At the beginning of the press conference, the following communique was read out:

The plenary held its sixth session in Alexandria, Egypt, on September 26-27, 1979.

The working groups on election modalities and powers and responsibilities submitted reports to the plenary.

In reviewing the report of the working group on election modalities, the plenary expressed various opinions. It was agreed that the working group on election modalities will continue its work, taking into consideration the observations and suggestions made during this session.

The report from the working group on powers and responsibilities was referred back to the working group in order to continue to work on it. It was agreed that one of the principles that will govern the negotiations and the eventual agreement is that to provide full autonomy to the inhabitants a self-governing authority (administrative council) will be established.

The working groups will be authorized to form subcommittees and/or sub-working groups, technical, exploratory, etc, in which the three delegations will be represented.

It was agreed that the following schedule of meetings would be followed during the next phase of the negotiations:

October 15-18, working group meetings in Alexandria; October 24-26, working group meetings in Alexandria; November 11-15, working group meetings in Alexandria; November 25-29, plenary meeting in Herzliya.

The parties agreed that their efforts to insert Palestinian representatives in participating in the negotiations should be continued.

Khalil, Burg Statements

NC271650 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil delivered a statement at the press conference he held in Alexandria this afternoon following a round of autonomy talks in Alexandria. The press conference was attended by Dr Yosef Burg, the Israeli interior minister and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks.

Dr Mustafa Khalil was asked whether the statement means that Egypt has abandoned the idea of applying autonomy to the land. His excellency replied that the question was raised at the working groups which are currently working to reach definitions pertaining to that question. He said that the statement makes it clear that the reports that had been submitted to the preparatory meeting were returned to the committees that prepared them.

The prime minister was asked whether the fixing of dates for the preparatory meetings means that there is agreement or disagreement between Egypt and Israel. The prime minister replied that the fact that three meetings will be held is positive and that there are still points on which the working committees have not agreed.

In reply to a question on when the Palestinians will participate in the discussions, the prime minister said: It is clear from the agreement reached that efforts are being exerted to invite the Palestinians to participate in the discussions. Efforts to have them participate will continue. His excellency said that the achievement of positive results in the negotiations will encourage them to participate.

Regarding Vice President Husni Mubarak's warning to Iran about its stand on Bahrain and whether it is contrary to Egyptian interests, the prime minister said that statement was not connected with the autonomy negotiations. He said it is an internal matter because the security of the Gulf is extremely important as far as Egypt is concerned, and if Iran attempts to carry out any sabotage in Bahrain or any Gulf state, Egypt will oppose it. He added: This naturally applies to any Arab state that is subjected to such threats.

Asked about Israel's agreement to return St Catherine's [monastery] to Egypt before the second anniversary of President as-Sadat's Jerusalem initiative in November, the prime minister said that he did not know the details.

On President as-Sadat's statement in Haifa that he expects Jordan will join the negotiations, Burg said that Israel is attempting to achieve peace with its neighbors and that Jordan has said that it (?welcomes) the idea of comprehensive peace. He said that he and Dr Mustafa Khalil are looking forward to achieving progress that will encourage Jordan to join the negotiations.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that it was President as-Sadat who made those statements and what Dr Khalil was advancing were impressions only. These are that he will exert efforts with Mr Burg to establish a comprehensive peace in the area despite the fact that the Arab states decided in Baghdad that they will work to achieve peace outside the Camp David framework.

The prime minister said we have not reached all our goals but we have reached principles on the basis of which all sides might join instead of procrastinating and adopting a framework other than Camp David.

Asked about the effect of yesterday's committee meeting on relations between Egypt and Israel, the prime minister said: The negotiations are not concerned with relations between Egypt and Israel, but are aimed at achieving Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said he did not agree that yesterday's meeting was stormy, but rather that it took place in a spirit of understanding, with each one expressing his opinion and point of view. He said that the negotiations are proceeding in a spirit of friendship and that all the difficulties to a comprehensive settlement will be surmounted. The prime minister said that since a year remains, we must announce at every meeting what has been discussed and what has been achieved.

Asked what Egypt is doing toward normalizing relations, Dr Burg said: I would like to explain that we have similar (?views) and we have just signed agreements. All the sides have been concerned with their commitments ever since the peace agreement was concluded.

Asked about reports from the United States about a possible conference on Lebanon and contacts among the United States, Lebanon and Syria to bring about Palestinian participation in that conference, Burg said: Israel absolutely does not intend to sever any contacts with any of the sides. He added that up to yesterday, he had not heard any details about this or that the situation had become stable in Lebanon.

As for rumors about the convening of a special conference on the Middle East similar to the Geneva conference, Dr Khalil said that he does not believe rumors.

Replying to a statement by an Israeli newsman that the Egyptian papers and radio had not reported what the Israelis say, the prime minister said that the radio and television have special laws and are governed by specific rules.

Asked what measures Israel is taking to bring the Palestinians into the negotiations, Burg said: I promise you that we are working at strengthening our efforts in this respect.

Asked about progress on the jurisdictions of self-rule, Dr Khalil said: I would rather not go into the details of that. He added that in the negotiations they will discuss delicate topics on which joint reports will be issued. He said that the working committee had covered these contacts and will work on the details until it achieves a positive result.

Israeli Delegation Leaves

NC271558 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1542 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 September--The Israeli delegation to the autonomy negotiations headed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg left Alexandria this afternoon after attending the sixth session of the negotiations.

The delegation includes Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir, Minister Without Protfolio Moshe Nisim and a number of advisers.

GHALI VIEWS JORDAN, PALESTINIANS JOINING TALKS

TA271529 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Sep 79 p 3 TA

[By Shmu'el Segev, MA'ARIV correspondent in Alexandria]

[Text] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali reiterated his opinion yesterday that Jordan and perhaps also the Palestinians will join the autonomy talks by the end of the present year.

In a special interview with MA'ARIV's correspondent, Ghali said that if the powers of the self-government authority are defined and the procedures of the elections for the autonomy institutions are worked out, this will constitute an important incentive for the Palestinians to join the talks. In such a case Egypt believes that it will be possible to apply the autonomy in the Gaza Strip first, and later also in the West Bank. Ghali explained that neither Israel nor Egypt has a mandate to speak in the Palestinians' name. The purpose of the autonomy talks is to create the conditions for the incorporation of the Palestinians. "We have not yet reached this stage and we are still making the first steps on a long road," the Egyptian minister said.

Ghali mentioned the message his government sent to Israel on 13 June 1978 via the United States in which Israel was asked to make some 20 gestures that would induce an easier, better atmosphere in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. According to him, Israel has not made any gesture toward the Palestinians so far.

When Mr Ghali was told that during his last visit in Haifa President as-Sadat did not raise this issue in his talk with Prime Minister Begin, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs replied that President as-Sadat always deals with principles and "leaves the handling of the various issues in the hands of the lower levels."

Minister Ghali was asked if he did not have the Arab world in mind during the public argument with Israeli Ministers Burg and Tamir at yesterday's opening session, and whether the argument he initiated was not meant to serve Egyptian domestic purposes. He firmly rejected this, saying that he had mainly the Israeli public in mind. "I directed my remarks to the public in Israel so that it knows how various decisions by its government affect the peace process," Ghali said.

The Egyptian minister said he is leaving for New York on Friday to represent his country in the UN General Assembly's deliberations. On 10 October he is to meet with Foreign Minister Dayan in Strasburg in the framework of the European Council's discussion. At the same time a date will be set for Minister Ghali's working visit to Israel to discuss various aspects of the normalization between the two countries.

In answer to a question, Ghali said that reports in the Israeli press that there were delays in issuing entrance visas to Egypt for Israeli tourists were without foundation and untrue. He said that before leaving for the summit of the nonalined countries in Cuba, he signed all the requests submitted to him by the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the visas were indeed sent to Jerusalem. Ghali promised that in future, too, there will be no delays in this issue, although "technical difficulties" could occasionally occur.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK RETURNS FROM OMAN, SOMALIA

NC271505 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Sep--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this afternoon after a 3-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman and Somalia.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE DELEGATION ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS

NC271500 Cairo MENA in English 1333 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, Sep 27 (MENA)--A 16-man delegation from the Council of Europe headed by Professor Wilhelm Hoper of Switzerland left here today concluding their talks with the Egyptian officials on the current developments of the Middle East situation and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In an interview Prof. Hofer said that the trip to Egypt was very successful and that the talks they held with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali, with chief of the presidential cabinet Hasan Kamil and members of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee headed by Muhammad Rashwan, chairman of the committee, were very useful.

He added that the delegation's fact-finding mission has not yet ended since the delegation members would proceed later on to Syria, Lebanon and then Jordan. Earlier the delegation visited Israel for the same purpose. The outcome of the trip would be embodied in a report by the delegation to be submitted to the Council of Europe at its meeting scheduled to be held in Strasburg early in October, Prof. Hofer added.

In reply to a question on the peace initiative of President Anwar as-Sadat, Prof. Hofer said that this initiative was highly appreciated by the Council of Europe and that the council sent President as-Sadat and Israeli Premier Menahem Begin congratulatory messages following President as-Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem some two years ago.

On the current Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on the autonomy for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Prof. Hofer expressed hope for their success. Nevertheless, he pointed out that there are some difficulties and that these could not be solved in weeks or months especially that the two sides have good arguments. Both sides, however, are for peace but they have a heavy task before them, Prof. Hofer stressed.

Concluding, Prof Hofer said both foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel were invited to attend the Strasburg conference and that the Middle East problem would be one of the major items in the agenda.

The delegation, which represents ten European countries, comprises other members representing France, Denmark, Britain, Italy, Holland, Sweden, Greece, Turkey in addition to Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

AL-AKHBAR CONDEMNS SYRIA FOR AIR BATTLE OVER LEBANON

NC250620 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Sep 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Is the Aim of This Air Battle?", AL-AKHBAR says: In an air battle south of Beirut yesterday afternoon between Syrian and Israeli planes, Syria lost four planes. Military sources in Beirut affirmed that they saw the Syrian planes fall to the ground and crash.

Israeli radio reported the battle, saying that the Israeli planes returned safely to base. Damascus Radio said nothing.

Some time ago Syrian planes clashed with Israeli planes in southern Lebanon. Reports then confirmed that Syria lost five planes in that battle and that Israel lost two planes. Damascus Radio then increased Israel's losses and reduced Syria's. The Alawite Ba'th voice repeated that report, commending the heroism of the brave men standing firm in the battle of confrontation and steadfastness. This time, however, Damascus Radio is maintaining utter silence. Perhaps it wants to shroud with strict secrecy a report whose details have been spread throughout the world until the Alawite Ba'thists find a formula to cover up their shame.

The paper wonders what Al-Asad and his group seek with these aerial demonstrations. It says that first they want to show their strength to the Syrian people, who are making trouble for them and shaking the earth under their feet, so that the Ba'thists can use these clashes as a pretext to declare an emergency and hide their atrocities against the people. They also aim at tightening their grip on the Syrian forces under the pretext of an emergency so that they can make the changes in the army commands which they have already announced.

Second, and this is the important thing at this particular time, the Ba'thists want to impede the efforts being made to establish a permanent truce in Lebanon to replace the cease-fire agreements as a means to establish peace in the Middle East and to safeguard Palestinian rights, as the U.S. secretary of state has said, because the Soviets do not want peace in Lebanon.

In conclusion AL-AKHBAR says: These are the aims of the Alawite Ba'thists with the aerial demonstrations. The results of these demonstrations will be mammoth and disgraceful catastrophes. These demonstrations are only the last steps to the end of the Alawite Ba'th.

LONDON PAPER ON AS-SADAT CHARGES ON ARAB AID SUSPENSION

LD251049 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 79 p 5 LD

[Jihad al-Khazin article: "As-Sadatist Logic"]

[Excerpts] Is it true that the Arabs are trying to starve the Egyptian people? If we are to believe President Anwar as-Sadat's accusation and vilifications, then the Arabs, who he said agree about nothing, have actually formed in alliance, joined hands and agreed to starve the Egyptian people.

Since siding with Israel rather than all the Arabs, President as-Sadat has been vilifying the other Arab states, leaders and peoples day after day. He used to revile Syria, Iraq and Libya even before the treaty was concluded with Egypt [as published]. But since the conclusion of the treaty, he has added the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to the list of "enemies" and has begun to level his favorite accusations at it, such as the charge of "starving" and humiliating the Egyptian people.

The relations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Iraq are really good but there are no alliances or allies. The two countries oppose any kind of alliances and therefore it would be unreasonable for them to start an alliance that would arouse their neighbors' suspicion for no reason. The two countries also support the people of Egypt, but not their government. The Camp David agreements have resulted in determination on the two countries' part to support the Egyptian people and to differentiate as much as possible between them and their government.

A concrete proof of differentiation between the Egyptian people and their government is that Saudi Arabia and Iraq have not expelled Egyptians but have continued to honor them and protect their livelihood without asking for favors in return. The Egyptians working in these two countries and in every other Arab country are gaining their livelihood by the sweat of their brow and they are gratefully helping their Arab brothers to implement their development and modernization projects. The Saudi Government has not taken even one measure or half-measure to encourage Saudis not to visit Egypt. Thousands of Saudis went to Cairo during the recent holidays and spent millions there. The Saudi Government need only drop a hint to make its citizens refrain from visiting Egypt, but that would deprive the Egyptian people of an important source of income that goes straight into their pockets and not to their government.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq and every other Arab state occupy the same position. They insist on maintaining a strong relationship with the honorable Egyptian people, but they do not deal with the Cairo government. The logic in this is clear: There is a fundamental disagreement over a fateful issue. So how can any Arab country, or any country whatever, aid a government it does not support. Is not this logic clear even to President as-Sadat?

In simple terms, the point is that as long as the Egyptian Government is in one valley and the rest of the Arabs are in another valley, all the previous economic aid will continue to be suspended. Promises or threats will be of no avail. If the Arab states being attacked by President as-Sadat opposed As-Sadat's policy but then aided him, they would be contradicting themselves and their people would not have believed their rejection of the treaty with Israel. This treaty is a fraud and these governments refuse to have anyting to do with it.

It is an established fact that some Arab governments, while opposing As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and warning him of its results, did not try to stop him so that he would not hold them responsible for the failure to find a solution. These governments eventually had to be resolute. The sinister visit led to the ominous Camp David agreements and subsequently to the separate treaty which has hurt the Arabs politically more than any war.

A final remark in passing: When As-Sadat is not abusing the Arabs, he is reviling Ayatollah Khomeyni because he has "injected the people with hatred and bitterness." Is it not strange that such an expression should come from President as-Sadat himself? What does he think he is doing when he tries every day to turn the Egyptian people against their Arab brothers and make his people bear the consequences of his erroneous policy?

Returning to logic, what good can be expected from attacking a head of state and supporting an expelled ruler? Do the Egyptian people benefit by being antagonistic toward Iran? Would such a policy be useful in improving their economic situation? Or is it their government's aim to actually starve them in order to convince them that they have no friend but Israel?

The Egyptian people must be aware of the scope of these issues. It is hoped that they will not forsake their nation. They will surely not.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CONCLUSION OF SRV PREMIER'S VISIT

For the joint communique issued at the conclusion of SRV Premier Pham Van Dong's visit to Iraq, see the Vietnam section of the 28 September Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

Pham Van Dong Cable

JN271244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 September--Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong has affirmed his country's desire to develop and bolster relations of friendship and cooperation with Iraq. President Saddam Husayn and RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim have received a cable of thanks from Pham Van Dong on the occasion of his departure from Iraq today, in which he praised Iraq's revolutionary achievements under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In his cable, Pham Van Dong said that the visit that he and his delegation paid to Iraq has left them with beautiful impressions of the genius and creativity of a people who built the greatest human civilization and are currently building a prosperous and happy state. He affirmed that Iraq is contributing effectively to the just Arab issue, which is definitely going to turn in favor of the Arab and Palestinian peoples, of all issues of liberty, of national independence and of social development for the world's peoples.

CANADIAN ENVOY INTERVIEWED ON STAND ON JERUSALEM

JN272117 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2056 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 September--Robert Stanfield, Canadian envoy and Progressive Conservative Party member, who is currently visiting Iraq, said that his government does not intend to change its known and traditional stand on the question of the occupation of the territory of others. In a television interview broadcast this evening, he said that the Canadian Government does not recognize or intend to recognize Israel's occupation of the Arab sector of Jerusalem and that it believes in Jerusalem's distinctive character. He said that C nadian Prime Minister Joe Clark does not intend to take a stand that affects Canada's general position on the question of occupation, and that his government does not intend to take any measures that imply its recognition of occupation.

He said he will submit a report on the results of his trip and the talks he has held on the transfer of the Canadian Embassy to occupied Jerusalem to his government on his return.

BRIEFS

TRADE DELEGATION TO PRC--Baghdad, 22 September--A trade delegation headed by Riyao Muhammad Salih, director general of the Iron and Timber Trade Company, left Baghdad for Beijing this morning on a 1-month visit to the PRC. The delegation will discuss economic cooperation and trade exchange. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 22 Sep 79 JN]

JESSE JACKSON VISITS PALESTINIAN CAMP

JN271523 Amman JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 27 September--U.S. black leader Reverend Jesse Jackson and the delegation accompanying him today visited Schneller Camp and met with a large number of its notables and inhabitants. During the meeting, Reverend Jackson said that the aim of his visit is to investigate the situation in the region. He also said: We understand the justice of the Palestine cause and, as U.S. citizens, we shall keep working for freedom and justice everywhere.

He added: During the visit and through our observation of the Palestinians' conditions in the occupied territories, we have become convinced that the Palestinian people's struggle is a humane one and that these people should obtain their legitimate rights.

Reverend Jackson said that U.S. public opinion is deeply influenced by what is published by the U.S. press, which is biased toward Israel. He added: We are extremely worried to see Palestinian children deprived of all their rights: It is the duty of us all to draw attention to this tragedy in order to shake the world's conscience. As Palestinians you should not lose hope, but continue working for the attainment of your legitimate human rights.

Information Minister's Banquet

JN280748 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Sep 79 JN

[Excerpt] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah hosted a banquet last night in honor of Rev Jesse Jackson, Baptist church leader and chairman of the Operation PUSH organization, and the delegation accompanying him.

Abu 'Awdah made a speech in which he welcomed Jesse Jackson and the delegation accompanying him and praised their mission, saying that it is a mission of hope and justice for human rights. Abu 'Awdah added that we cannot differentiate between our struggle for human rights here and the U.S. struggle.

Rev Jesse Jackson answered with a speech in which he praised King Husayn's role and efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. Jackson also praised the solicitude which Jordan has shown and is still showing toward the Palestinian people, saying that Jordan is a great country in its methods and goals. He added that their mission aspires to put an end to pain and suffering and that there will be no peace unless security for all the region's states is achieved. He affirmed the Palestinian people's right to establish their state on their national soil, adding that he and his delegation will call on the U.S. President to take this fact into consideration. Jackson said he will leave for Beirut to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and other Palestinian and Lebanese officials.

PRESIDENT SARKIS RECEIVES SAUDI AMBASSADOR

LD272215 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis today met with Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Ash-Shaykh 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. They discussed the situation in southern Lebanon.

In a statement following the meeting, Ash-Shaykh 'Ali ash-Sha'ir expressed hope that the question of southern Lebanon will be solved in a manner which will realize the hopes being expressed at Arab, Lebanese and international levels. He said the kingdom is making extensive efforts on the Arab and international levels in an attempt to solve the problem of the south.

VOL REPORTS EXPLOSION AT BEIRUT UNIVERSITY

NC271750 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Text] A bomb was hurled this afternoon at the grounds of the Arab University of Beirut during an oratory festival held to commemorate the GDR anniversary. A number of PLO leaders and leftist leaders allied with the communists were present. The explosion was followed by gunfire which soon extended from the university area to the Coca-Cola area. There were casualties but the number and seriousness of these casualties are unknown.

'Arafat at University

NC271752 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1734 GMT 27 Sep 79 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon's correspondent reports that Yasir 'Arafat was one of those attending this evening's celebration at the Arab University of Beirut where a bomb exploded on the university grounds, as we reported earlier in this newscast. Initial reports indicate that eight persons were wounded by shrapnel, some of them seriously. The roads in the area extending from the Coca-Cola circle to the Arab University of Beirut have been closed. Gunfire was heard in the area. People took cover in their homes for safety from the heavy fire. As we said earlier, the celebration was to mark the GDR day.

VOL REPORTS 27 SEP FLIGHTS BY SYRIAN, ISRAELI PLANES

NC280705 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 28 Sep 79 NC

[Text] Israeli planes flew over Tyre and Sidon yesterday. Syrian planes flew over Jazzin in reply to an Israeli reconnaissance plane that flew at low altitude over western Al-Biqa', where there are Syrian forces.

NATIONAL FRONT CENTRAL COMMAND ISSUES STATEMENT

JN270723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Sep 79 JN

["Text" of statement issued by the Syrian Progressive National Front Central Command on 26 September, following its recent meetings under President Hafiz al-Asad--read by announcer]

[Text] Compatriots: In contemporary Arab history, due to the tragedies from which the Arab nation has suffered, the Arab citizen has always been attracted to the ray of hope lighting the road of struggle for him and charging him with the will of steadfastness and confrontation. The Arab strugglers' capabilities have always exploded like hurricanes in the face of the enemies and their plans. Various battles in the struggle have been waged in every field. The strugglers continued to pin their hope on Egypt. The will of steadfastness continued to charge the nation witn enthusiasm, despite all setbacks and difficulties.

The corrective movement in the Syrian Arab Republic came in 1970 to give the Arab strugglers the strategy of Arab struggle for the current phase. This strategy was based on the establishment of strong national unity in Syria and on the unification of the patriotic and progressive forces in the Arab homeland, in a manner that would render these forces the backbone of Arab solidarity in face of the imperialism, expansionism and colonialism represented by Israel--the instrument of world Zionism and U.S. imperialism. This strategy was also based on consolidating the alliance between the Arab nation and the forces of progress and liberation in the world, in order to strengthen the front of world struggle against U.S. imperialism, Zionism and racism.

Revolutionary Syria, under its struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, began its march along the path of applying this strategy. The leader party--the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--followed a policy of open honesty with the masses. The Progressive National Front and its unionist, national and socialist charter were established. Democratic institutions were created, particularly the People's Assembly and the local government councils. Popular organizations and vocational trade unions were strengthened and their organizational frameworks were completed. All of these political and social achievements and progressive trends were our means of achieving a strong national unity, which strengthened and unified our society in the Syrian Arab Republic.

This national unity played the largest part in Syria's ability to create a unified Arab stand and strong Arab solidarity, in order to achieve the Arab nation's goals of liberating the land and regaining the usurped rights. This national unity was the factor that enabled revolutionary Syria and its courageous leaders to achieve all that it has achieved for the homeland and the Arab nation, in terms of political achievements on the Arab and international levels.

Our national unity, with its achievements inside Syria and with those it helped attain in the Arab homeland and the world, underlay revolutionary Syria's decision to initiate the glorious battles of October. This war of liberation was waged by our people and army, together with our Arab nation's masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf, who actually participated at times and expressed their support at others. This holy war manifested all the symbols of glory and pride in our contemporary history. This holy war, with all its material and moral victories and with its impact on the international arena, is one of the most important achievements of our national unity.

Our national unity, in addition to its political and military achievements and those accomplished in building popular democracy, has continued its march of achievement in the field of development and in consolidating the public sector's role, in terms of both depth and comprehensiveness, as a basis of socialist transformation. It has also rendered public services to the citizens.

The Syrian Arab Republic's political, economic and social achievements of recent times were accomplished while we were waging our nation's battles and confronting the plots concocted against us by world imperialism and Zionism.

We have always acted on the assumption that the best criterion of our healthy march is the degree of ferocity with which our nation's enemies confront us, both domestically and externally.

The imperialist and Zionist plots against us have always been escalated and intensified whenever we followed a sounder and healthier course toward achieving our goals or acted with greater determination and strength in following the proper path to their achievement.

Masses of our people: Following the October war of liberation, the plots began to intensify in various ways, in an attempt to curtail the results of the October victories and to abort the material and moral gains of this war. The imperialist and Zionist forces have made the unified Arab stand and Arab solidarity a target of attack. Thus came As-Sadat's treason and his repeated capitulation, beginning with the Sinai agreement and ending with total alliance with Israel, world Zionism and U.S. imperialism against the Arab nation. We could not maintain silence over the treason and allow the plot to achieve its goals, by shattering Arab solidarity and by transforming the Arab-Israeli dispute into an inter-Arab dispute. This could have destroyed the hope of establishing Arab unity and perhaps even the concept of Arab unity as an ideology and principle, as well as Arab nationalism as a cultural, civilized ideology, allowing it to be replaced by the kind of backward, malicious affiliations that were transcended by mankind long ago. We had to either accept all of this or reject it, by confronting and resisting the plot and preparing for the consequences of such a stand of struggle, in regard to sacrifices, regardless of how enormous they might be.

We chose to repulse and resist, relying on our national unity, the patriotic and national Arab forces, Arab solidarity, the front of progressive and liberation forces in the world and the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union. We resolved to resist the conspiracy and reject what is being secretly hatched against us.

We proceeded, on the basis of our national unity, to establish the steadfastness and confrontation front with all progressive and nationalist regimes and forces in the Arab homeland. We continued our march of struggle to reformulate Arab solidarity in a way that would bring all of our Arab nation's resources to bear against the new alliance: The As-Sadat-Zionist-imperialist alliance.

The ninth Arab summit conference and its resolutions were a collective Arab reply to As-Sadat's treason and a categorical Arab rejection of the Camp David agreements and their results.

Brother compatriots: After revolutionary Syria achieved great strides in leading the Arab struggle against the imperialist and Zionist plots, our domestic and foreign enemies' malice was concentrated on the solid foundation upon which revolutionary Syria depended in confronting the imperialist design. This solid foundation was the Syrian Arab Republic's national unity.

The moves of the Muslim Brotherhood gangs began when Syria's opposition to the Sinai agreements began to emerge. The acts of individual assassinations, incidents disrupting security and the explosions increased as a result of our increasing resistance to the conspiracy.

Today--while at the peak of struggle against the Camp David agreements and the As-Sadat-Zionist-U.S. alliance in all Arab and international arenas, including the OAU conference, the nonalined conference, all other regional and international conferences and the United Nations--we are facing on the domestic front the most ferocious onslaughts by the forces of darkness and malice and the agents of Israeli and U.S. intelligence. These forces planned and implemented the Aleppo Artillery School massacre; continued their crimes by committing a series of assassinations of doctors, officers, clergymen and innocent citizens; and committed various acts of sabotage. Their objective is to destroy our national unity and to paralyze our ability to confront the big conspiracy against our nation and homeland and preoccupy us from continuing the march of internal building in the various political, social and military fields.

The armed gang, which has sold itself to the devil and is utilizing its resources to serve the nation's enemies, is disguising itself with religious terminology, in the hope that it can mislead our masses and render them unable to distinguish between the members of this gang--who are agents, murderers and criminals--and the rest of our masses, who believe in God and the homeland.

Our masses know how to unmask these agents, thereby exposing them as agents of imperialism. They are totally void of religion and patriotism. Those who commit evil acts will have to face the consequences.

By committing its crimes, this criminal gang wants to create suspicion among groups of citizens and sow the seeds of sectarian sedition, overlooking the fact that the soil upon which this gang is trying to foster sectarianism is the soil of Arab nationalism, the soil of noble and spiritual values. It is the soil of love, fraternity, and freedom. It can never be the soil of malice, sectarianism and backward affiliations. It is the soil of Islamic justice, Christian love and pan-Arab affiliation, with all of their cultural and civilized dimensions.

Brother compatriots: The Syrian Arab Republic's Progressive National Front has, in its recent meetings, analyzed the events in the Arab homeland and the domestic events that have recently escalated. The Progressive National Front has discovered that there is an inherent connection between the escalation of the criminal move in the interior and the escalation of the external plotting against our nation.

The Progressive National Front declares its unanimous opinion that the crimes committed against the security of the state and of the citizens in this country and the reactionary activity that coincides with the commission of these crimes are closely linked to the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat plot aimed against the Arab nation and its central issue of Palestine.

On the basis of this analysis, we appeal to the citizens to exercise further vigilance and awareness in confronting the criminal elements, in order to safeguard the homeland's security, consolidate national unity, rally behind the patriotic and progressive regime in the Syrian Arab Republic and support the principled policy followed by Syria in its pan-Arab stand against the imperialist and Zionist plots.

The Progressive National Front asserts to the masses of our struggling people that its organized rank and file will be a vanguard in acting to uproot the corrupt criminals and to destroy the murderous Muslim Brotherhood gang, in order to defend national unity and to protect our progressive achievements and our democratic, popular regime.

Brother compatriots: Following several sequential meetings held by the Progressive National Front Central Command under President Hafiz al-Asad, a joint meeting was held with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The Arab and international situation and the stage which the imperialist-Zionist plot has reached were reviewed. A review was also conducted of the domestic situation and the national and pan-Arab action program outlined in President Hafiz al-Asad's speech at the constitutional oath-taking session in the People's Assembly 8 March 1978. The program concentrates on promoting national unity through consolidating and developing the Progressive National Front's role and that of the popular and vocational organizations, highlighting the significance of spreading a democratic climate through the country, strengthening and reinforcing the local government institutions and safeguarding the citizens' freedom, safety and dignity. The program also concentrates on the public sector's role in leading the national economy, and on the use of comprehensive planning as a method for proceeding on the path of socialism and for increasing production through development, in order to provide a better livelihood for our toiling masses and to strengthen our defense capabilities, by undertaking additional efforts to strengthen our armed forces in both quality and quantity. In addition, the program addresses the need for responsible action and national solidarity, to be manifested in the discharge of our daily affairs and in all our actions. It focuses on developing the Syrian Arab citizen's national and pan-Arab identity; on creating a generation committed to the Arab nation's goals of unity, freedom and socialism; on expressing our spiritual values and historical heritage as a civilized nation; on giving women a full role in life and their natural place in society; and on emphasizing that we will continue our struggle for the sake of Arab unity, setting forth no conditions to anyone who wants to engage us in dialog on this issue, except that of acting to achieve unity.

Citizens, after reviewing this program, which is considered a course of action for all state institutions and organizations and democratic institutions in Syria, the joint meeting found that there is unjustified dereliction in implementation of many spheres of action outlined in the action program.

Proceeding from this action program, particularly from its content related to the need to respect democratic institutions; to give their forces free reign in achieving constructive national interaction; to reach an organizational situation where all violations of law would be checked and through which all the judiciary's verdicts would be implemented and trial proceedings simplified; to extend the powers of ordinary courts at the expense of extraordinary courts as soon as possible; to establish a strong economy, which will support our nation in both war and peace and support our heroic army in its battles; to plan for a sound economy, with socialism as its objective, which will end the age of mediators, parasites and brokers and will consolidate the people's ownership of the means of production; and to provide a dignified livelihood for our masses, the joint meeting has decided on the following:

On the level of government institutions:

1. To firmly apply the principle of sovereignty of law.
2. To refrain from practicing political responsibilities except within the limits of the law and to bring all those who order or implement legal infringements to account.
3. To achieve general discipline in government institutions.
4. To strengthen the authority of the judiciary:
A. By simplifying trial proceedings and accelerating the settlement of all lawsuits.
B. By respecting and implementing legal verdicts.
C. By restricting the jurisdiction of the state security courts to crimes against the security of the state.
5. To study the authority and powers of the Council of Ministers, of its committees, of the prime minister, his deputies, ministers and their assistants, governors and director generals and to define their authorities and powers in a way that will permit their full assumption of their responsibilities.
6. To give special importance to combating bureaucracy and routine.
7. To do everything possible to unify the laws governing workers in the state and public sector.
8. To implement the principle of the right man in the right place.

In the field of economy:

1. To give priority to the public sector and to work constantly to consolidate and develop this sector as a basis for development and for the improvement of the living conditions of the people and the toiling masses.
2. To make use of the private agricultural and industrial sector to support the public sector and to contribute, with it, in implementing economic development projects.
3. To deal with any existing malfunctions in the public sector's productive companies and institutions, in order to achieve maximum production.
4. To give priority to the selection of experienced, capable and confident leadership cadres for the publis sector's companies and institutions.
5. To pay more attention to effectively training technical cadres, to enable them to carry out their responsibilities in the development and socialist transformation process.
6. To give priority to workers needed for production.
7. To expeditiously apply the system of incentives in a sound manner.
8. To seek to find a balance between wages and prices, expenditures and revenues and between production and consumption.
9. To end the role of mediators and brokers.
10. To stress the need to control and punish those who fail to do their duty.
11. To tighten price control by use of governmental and popular means.
12. Priorities in the next 5-year development plan will be as follows:

A. To fully exploit our existing economic projects and work in order to operate our existing economic projects ideally and to render both our current projects and those that will be established productive as soon as possible.

B. To achieve a swift, comprehensive development in the agricultural sector in both livestock and crop cultivation and to consider the rural regions' development to be our economic and social plan's chief task.
C. To prospect for natural resources and to exploit all that scientific research indicates is fit for economic investment.
13. To attempt to avoid economic problems resulting from shortages in such commodities as gas, diesel oil, timber, iron and others.
14. To provide special care to supply our masses with good bread and to make it easily available.
15. To tackle the housing crisis and entrust the government with solving the public housing problem.
16. To keep government expenditures in various fields to a minimum.
17. To seriously and effectively confront smuggling.
18. To adopt a price policy as an incentive to agricultural and industrial production.
19. To firmly apply the laws relating to the prevention of land speculation.

On the level of the People's Assembly:

1. To ensure that members of the People's Assembly exercise their role in debates and offer proposals freely and responsibly.
2. To require concern on the part of the mass media with the People's Assembly's activities and discussions.
3. To support the People's Assembly in its effort to play an effective role in the public censorship of the state organs and public administration.

On the level of local administration:

1. To form a special committee to study the extent to which local government councils in the districts and their executive bureaus should exercise their powers.
2. To issue decisions and take measures enabling the local government councils and their executive bureaus to perform their role and exercise their powers in full, particularly in:
A. Imposing public censorship on state organs.
B. Drafting and implementing plans in the district.
C. Genuinely leading the local state organs.
3. To prepare to move to the next stage in implementing local administration.

On the level of the National Progressive Front:

1. To form a committee from among the front's command to study ways of developing the National Progressive Front. This committee will seek the help of citizens whom it deems effective by conducting extensive discussions through various means.
2. To increase the front's effectiveness, activities and contacts on the internal and foreign levels, in order to explain the tasks that our country should perform and to confront our enemies.
3. To determine the powers of the front's Central Command, in order to increase its contribution to shouldering the leadership's responsibility.
4. To establish headquarters for the front's branches in the provinces.

Citizens, having drawn up the joint meeting's decisions in various fields and having entrusted the responsible authorities with their implementation in the shortest possible time, the National Progressive Front Command calls on public and professional organizations and on all Syrian mass organizations to follow up on the implementation of these decisions and to practice their constitutional and legal rights, through effective public censorship of the government organs, intended to eliminate obstacles to implementation and to create a democratic climate that exposes defects, prevents indifference and fortifies the state organs against bureaucracy and corruption.

At this point, we deem it suitable to reiterate what President Hafiz al-Asad said in his speech at the opening of the People's Assembly on 18 August 1977:

I do not want anyone to keep silent where wrong is concerned or to conceal defeats, for such actions will result in an accumulation of these wrongs and defects, which would in time destroy all that we have built in all fields and thus cause an important stage in our history to stumble. The exposure of wrongs and defects is one step forward to reform.

Brother citizens, let us continue to work and build, let us continue our struggle and rally our ranks. Let us extend our greetings to our armed forces, which are the homeland's shield and watchful eye. Let us pay homage to the souls of all the Arab nation's soldiers who were martyred during our noble, heroic battles.

Signed: The Progressive National Front, Damascus, 26 September, 1979.

DECREE OUTLINES POWERS OF CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

JN271650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued the following decree: In accordance with the articles of the constitution and the articles of legislative decree No 25 of 1971, the president decrees the following:

Article I. The customs authorities at the borders, airports and ports are the only authority responsible for procedures dealing with the entry and exist of goods and transport means in accordance with the laws and regulations that are in force.

Article II. All roads and international and public highways and other roads and highways which link the country with neighboring countries, as well as military roads, will be subject to the control of the customs authorities within the limits of their jurisdiction. The competent authorities in the armed forces should coordinate with the customs authorities when forces move to enable the customs authorities to carry out their supervisory tasks at the borders, airports and ports, and to assist them on request.

Article III. Goods or transport means should not enter or leave the country unless accompanied by official customs documents. All quarters are prohibited from issuing assignments for the transport of goods or means of transport across the borders, except in special cases when existing instructions necessitate the issuance of such orders. Customs documents as well as these orders are necessary in such cases.

Article IV. The various public authorities at the border posts, airports and ports are prohibited from interfering in the work of the customs authorities for any reason. If these authorities should observe any transgressions or behavior by customs officials that violate the laws and regulations in force, they must submit a report to the finance minister and the director general of customs.

Article V. This decree will be published so that all concerned are informed.

DAMASCUS, 19 September 1979 [Signed] President of the Republic, Hafiz al-Asad.

Finance Minister Sadiq al-Ayyubi said that this decree is part of the plan of the government and leadership to tighten application of the law so that the customs authorities can play their full role in combatting smuggling and protecting the national economy. This decree presents the customs authorities with their responsibilities for carrying out their supervision duties over all public and international roads and highways and entry points to serve the interests of the national economy and the public treasury.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE HARMING PUBLIC INTERESTS

JN272029 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--In order to achieve the goals of the objective plan aimed at punishing elements that harm the public interest and trying to disregard the laws in force, and to continue the policy of achieving discipline in work and in the performance of duties and respecting the laws of the land, within the framework of the laws and regulations in force, Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi has issued an order to apply various punitive measures against a number of individuals who harm the public interest and refer them to the competent judicial authorities.

SANA's correspondent has learned that Prime Minister Mubammad 'Ali al-Halabi has announced that the measures will be severe with those who are guilty of dereliction of duty, neglect, violation of existing laws and of harming the public interest, and that as of today the most stringent measures and most severe punishment provided by existing laws and regulations will be applied. The prime minister will issue a number of communiques and decrees organizing the government apparatus in order to combat lax discipline in every department, with the aim of providing a unified standard of work, enforcing the performance of duties, looking after citizens' interests and safeguarding the sovereignty of the law in all fields.

CONTACTS, DEALINGS WITH MIDDLEMEN PROHIBITED

JN270817 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi has prohibited contacts or the acceptance of invitations to have contacts of any type with brokers and middlemen, whatever their nationality. Anyone who contravenes this will be held responsible and will be liable to the economic sanctions of the law.

The prime minister said that the state deals only with the producers. He said that the policy of not dealing with middlemen is the state's policy, which is dictated by the fact that the public sector leads the country's economy. He had stressed in a communique issued on 25 July 1979 that the state cooperates only with the producers or with distributors who are not directly accredited by the producers in an official and firmly established manner in cases where the producer is not in charge of the distribution himself.

The communique also strictly prohibited the solicitation or acceptance of offers by any parties other than the producers, or by any distributors who are not directly accredited by the producers in an official and firmly established manner. All are prohibited--and will be held strictly responsible and liable to the economic sanctions provided by the law--from contacting or agreeing to hold contacts of any type with middlemen and brokers, whatever their nationality.

Ministers, the central organization for control and inspection and the various bodies for control and custodianship are responsible for the proper implementation of this communique. This communique is issued to stress the policy of direct dealings with producers and to prevent the intervention of middlemen in contracts, purchases and sales and to prohibit contacts with them.

TISHRIN: PRESSURE ON SYRIA IS OF U.S. ORIGIN

JN271057 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 27 September--The newspaper TISHRIN, published here today, comments on Syria's reply to the pressures directed against it. It says: It would be a mistake to believe that the hostile activities at home, manifested in bloody and terroristic acts and crimes, are isolated from the general situation in the area and the acute struggle between the United States and its stooges, on one hand, and Syria and the other Arab sides who reject capitulation, on the other.

TISHRIN adds: Those who doubt that the pressure directed against Syria both at home and abroad is of U.S. origin and is planned for by certain Arabs should carefully read the following excerpt of the political commentary broadcast by the Israeli radio on 23 September: Perhaps President al-Asad realizes that these pressures will intensify and grow stronger as long as he and his colleagues remain outside the framework of peaceful action. Perhaps he also realizes that these pressures will never disappear until the last traces of the rejection of peace in Syria and the Middle East disppear.

TISHRIN continues: The tactics of pressure, intimidation, provocation, extortion and two faced policy are not new to the United States. Henry Kissinger, the godfather of the U.S. settlement in the Middle East and the one who drafted the foundations of the plot that is hostile to the Arab nation, admitted this in his memoirs. He said: I wanted to discourage the extremists, who always adopted hostile stands, and to make them understand that without the friendship of the United States as a prerequisite it would be impossible to achieve any diplomatic progress in the Middle East.

TISHRIN asserts that the enemies are trying to continue their pressure on Syria by use of all possible means, until Syria ends its opposition to the U.S.-Israeli settlement--as Israel says--and until it accepts the friendship of the United States as a prerequisite to any diplomatic progress in the Middle East--as Kissinger says. Syria knew this already. It did not need the Israeli radio or Kissinger to tell it this.

TISHRIN continues: If the enemies believe that they can affect Syria's decision and stands through domestic and external pressure, they are committing a very grave error and are proving once again that they know neither Syria nor the sources of its strength.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has sources of strength that can never dry up. The leaders of Syria know these sources and have enough courage to place all of them in the battle which will lead the Arab nation to victory.

TISHRIN concludes: For further evidence that Syria is strong, capable of confronting the enemy and determined to confront and repulse him, one need only read the statement issued by the Progressive National Front and to await the important decisions that will follow the statement in all fields.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B SEES CONCERTED 'ONSLAUGHT' ON ARAB EAST, MAGHREB

LD270821 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Sep 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Not A New Admission"]

[Text] In an "exciting" statement to his press yesterday, President as-Sadat revealed that he is actually giving arms to Morocco as aid to the king in his aggressive war against the people of the desert.

Fortunately, As-Sadat revealed nothing new in his statement. The heroic desert fighters' arms had earlier destroyed a number of the Egyptian tanks thrust into a war of oppression against a fraternal people seeking freedom and defending their right to live.

As-Sadat's intervention against the Arab liberation movement in our area, as a cat's paw of imperialism and Zionism, like his intervention in Lebanon and Oman was natural and expected. It is dictated by the dangerous position in which he has placed himself and his forces--a situation characterized by:

Stifling isolation in the Arab and international fields, forcing him to ally even with the devil in order to "breathe";

Absolute subservience to imperialism and Zionism and blind compliance with their orders to implement their conspiratorial schemes in the Arab world and Africa.

Increasing domestic popular pressure on him because of the deteriorating standard of living and the failure of his open-door policy to bring about prosperity. To be fair to As-Sadat, we in turn reveal that his intervention against the desert people was not of his own volition but at the behest of Washington, following an appeal for help by the king of Rabat, the "embarrassing ally."

King Hassan has been persistently knocking on the door of the White House, begging for more arms so as to thrust them into the war in the western desert--but to no avail. Well-informed diplomatic circles assert that he has often traveled secretly to Washington, once on the same plane as Israeli Defense Minister Weizman and a second time with Moshe Dayan. The persistent knocker gave the same excuse every time: The monarchy is NATO's best guarantee in northwest Africa as well as an indivisible part of the "free world's" defense. To prove his good will, he expressed his readiness to permit the building of new U.S. military bases on Moroccan soil in return for weapons.

Eventually, Washington found a suitable Machiavellian solution: To direct the king of Rabat to Egypt's ruler and ask him to do some of the "dirty work"--the investigating and the probing--instead. This "golden" solution is completely consistent with the imperialist-Zionist plan, which no longer differentiates between the Arab homeland's east and west and which aims at:

Arabizing the conflict by intensifying the wars among the brothers and distracting them from the common Zionist enemy. This is what has been and is happening in Lebanon, the western desert and Oman;

Besieging and striking at the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, of which Algeria is one of the strong bastions, and liquidating the Palestinian cause by consecrating the Zionist occupation.

It is clear to the simplest observer that the arms flowing so generously to the monarchist regime in Morocco from the United States, Egypt and Israel and even France greatly exceed the target set for them which is to consolidate Moroccan occupation of the western desert and even to interfere flagrantly in Algeria, which is a strong link in the chain of Arab steadfastness and in the African struggle.

It is not unlikely that the logic behind the premeditated plot against Algeria is the same as that of the 1956 tripartite aggression against Egypt: The destruction of the Egyptian revolution began with the overthrow of 'Abd an-Nasir's regime, and the destruction of the desert people's revolution is achieved by inflicting defeat on the Algerian army.

As the tripartite aggression revealed the absurdity of this logic, so any adventure against Algeria would inevitably have the same results and would strengthen the bonds of struggle between the Algerian and the desert revolutions.

We say this not out of plain optimism but out of confidence in our political leadership, which has undoubtedly drawn the right conclusions from the Israeli-As-Sadatist military presence close to our borders and realized the serious dimensions of the ferocious imperialist onslaught on the Arab homeland, in both east and west.

LIBYA

JANA: AL-QADHDHAFI TALKS WITH ARAB BANKS' GOVERNORS

LD271904 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Benghazi, September 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great First of September Revolution, held a meeting with members of the Governors Council of the Arab central banks, during which they discussed the means of using the Arab funds for the benefit of the Arab cause and a weapon against the countries hostile to the Arab destiny causes.

Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi affirmed the necessity of implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions which stipulate the economic sanction measures against the Egyptian regime.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Hassan Zalzalah, the assistant-secretary of the economic affirs of the Arab League.

AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN INTERVIEWED ON ARAB ISSUES

JN271211 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0820 GMT 27 Sep 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 27 September--Libyan Ambassador to Bahrain Ramadan al-Rubi has stated that the protection of the Gulf area is an Arab responsibility. He said: We will not accept any foreign intervention in our country, in fraternal countries, the Gulf area or in areas where oil sources are located. The responsibility of defending the area should be shouldered by our people and not by foreign countries. We will accept no one's tutelage.

In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, the Libyan ambassador stressed that the responsibility of defending oil sources is the responsibility of the Arab countries and not of any other party.

On the Lebanese problem, the Libyan ambassador said his country has called for an Arab summit conference in order to save Lebanon from the problem it faces and to enable the Arabs to confront Israel's expansionist designs, represented in the occupation of the water sources. This will enable the Zionist entity to expand the areas suitable for agriculture, thus facilitating the absorption of additional immigrants.

On the issue of Lebanese Shi'ite leader Musa as-Sadr, the Libyan ambassador said that Imam Musa as-Sadr visited Libya and then left. His country has submitted evidence proving that he left, the ambassador added.

The Libyan ambassador reiterated his country's support for the POLISARIO. He said: We support the principle of the freedom of mankind in this world. Freedom was the first slogan we raised. We support the freedom of the individual, wherever he may be. He added that his country was the first Arab country to support the Western Saharan people during the Spanish rule and to offer them the necessary assistance at the time.

The Libyan ambassador described his country's relations with the United States as relations between equals. He said: Our policy is clear. It seeks liberation and a return to the homeland. The United States wants us to go along with the situation and not to oppose the current proposed solutions or its policies on the subject. To achieve this, the United States resorts to pressure and intimidation. The Libyan ambassador pointed to the U.S. refusal to sell Libya commercial materials. He said: This U.S. position constitues the beginning of pressure on the Libyan people, who reject the proposed U.S. solutions in the area.

The Libyan ambassador said that the American people are a friendly people, noting that an American delegation participated in the 1 September Revolution anniversary.

On Libyan-Bahraini relations, the Libyan ambassador noted that they are strong and constantly developing.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM SENEGAL 27 SEPTEMBER

LD272226 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Sep LD

[Text] Maata Bouabid, prime minister and minister of justice, returned to Morocco this evening after a short visit to Senegal during which he delivered to President Leopold-Sedar Senghor a personal message from His Majesty King Hassan II.

In a statement to the radio and television service, the prime minister stated that he was received in audience this morning by the president of the Senegalese Republic. During the meeting they talked about bilateral relations and ways of strengthening these relations in implementation of the wishes of his majesty the king and the Senegalese president. The talks also centered on issues that are connected with the area and international questions.

The prime minister and minister of justice was accompanied during this visit by Ahmed Senoussi, Moroccan ambassador to Mauritania, and by Ahmed Hammoud, Moroccan ambassador to Senegal.

The prime minister and minister of justice was welcomed by the governor of Fes region and the Senegalese ambassador to Morocco on his arrival at Fes airport.

MAP: AOSARIO ACCUSES ALGERIA OF HOLDING SAHARAN FAMILIES

LD271412 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Ottawa, Sept 27 (MAP)--The secretary general of the Association of the Natives of Sahara Formerly Under Spanish Rule (AOSARIO) published here Tuesday a press release in which he namely denounced "the sequestration of families originally from the Sahara, who are kept as hostages in the concentration camps in the south of Algeria."

On the other hand, the AOSARIO warns the international public opinion against the war that Algeria launches against Morocco under the cover of the so-called "POLISARIO", trying thus to hide its hegemonist aims on Africa and the Third-World, and more especially its eager desire to have a passage to the Atlantic Ocean which will enable it to export its mineral resources abroad.

"The AOSARIO is determined to intensify its military action against the Algerian Army until all the families detained by the Algerian power are unconditionally liberated" stated further the press release.

The AOSARIO finally accuses the Algerian power of refusing to authorize the high commissioner for refugees to undertake a census of the Moroccan families who are living on the Algerian territory, or to get directly in touch with the sequestrated people.

LE MATIN HOPES FOR 'RADICAL CHANGE' IN AL-QADHDHAFI POSTURE

LD210929 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 5 Sep 79 p 1 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui article: "Voice of Reason, Way of Unity"]

[Excerpt] On the 10th anniversary of his revolution, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made a speech quite unlike his usual diatribes. Apart from again making President as-Sadat a target for his thunderbolts, the Libyan head of state appeared to be in a conciliatory mood during a speech moderate in form and realistic in essence. In particular, he did not mention the hara at all, despite the presence of a delegation of mercenaries in Tripoli--an in ation of a new state of mind.

As far as we Moroccans are concerned, we note with satisfaction this restraint which, we hope, is an indication of a new approach rather than a stance adopted in a speech made on a specific occasion, and reveals a radical change in Al-Qadhdhafi's policy toward Morocco and the conflict now taking place in the Maghreb.

As His Majesty King Hassan II has repeatedly stated, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has contributed, through completely unjustified intervention, to the creation of preconditions for conflict, since without the Soviet arms which Libya has been freely supplying to the mercenaries and without the inexhaustible funds and other means likely to insure destabilization and subversion which it also supplies, there would be neither war nor risk of conflict in the Maghreb.

Therefore, it is largely because of him that there is a risk of conflagration in the Maghreb. Instead of being a factor for peace, he has been a factor for war.

Now this attitude, especially his hostility to our country, are completely inconsistent with his philosophy. In fact, while preaching Muslim orthodoxy and Islamic unity he has been doing his utmost to divide both Muslims and Arabs.

Arab unity is necessarily dependent on the unity of all countries concerned, every component of the Arab nation, and therefore on the restoration of the Arab nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is necessary to prevent its Balkanization and consequent weakening.

As for Morocco, it has always been in the forefront of the Arab-Islamic brotherhood. It has always striven for unity and has never connived at either war or division but has been a factor for unity and cohesion.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO INVITES MOROCCO TO TALKS IN BAMAKO, MALI

LD271450 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Following the heavy defeat suffered by the Moroccan Army on 24 August 1979, in Lebouirate, the Saharan defense minister, Mr Ibrahim Ghali, is quite right to say that an army that lost hundreds of soldiers and such a large quantity of armaments in a few hours of fighting cannot expect to win the war.

Besides, it is to be expected that the situation of the monarchist army will further deteriorate, for Mr Ibrahim Ghali has reaffirmed that the future operations of the POLISARIO Front will be more ferocious, conducted on a larger scale and will have political repercussions unless the king begins seeking a political settlement.

We reiterate our appeal to Morocco, Mr Ibrahim Ghali said, to enter into negotiations with us in Bamako, Mali, under the auspices of the OAU ad hoc committee, with a view to implementing the resolutions of the Monrovia summit. Such negotiations must cover the restitution to the Saharan people of their territory by Morocco.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON PLO, SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA271949 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Sep 79 TA

[Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan interviewed by New York correspondent Dan Shilon prior to his speech at the United Nations General Assembly--videotaped]

[Text] [Dayan begins in midsentence] But the State Department hinted to us that they are entertaining all kinds of thoughts and plans and will discuss this with us with the trend at this stage being to bring about a cease-fire or something more--a cease-fire [in southern Lebanon], that is to say, the American proposal does not talk about a final solution. At this stage the issue is very complex.

[Question] Reports are being made here to the effect that the Americans are talking about involving the PLO, Israel and perhaps other countries in a kind of conference to achieve a cease-fire. Are we going to cooperate in such a conference?

[Answer] I have not heard of such a plan and I cannot conceive of there being such a plan.

[Question] Have you heard of any practical idea?

[Answer] The practical idea that I have heard about is the one I told you, which includes a cease-fire, and this practical idea should also include creating a distance between the PLO and the southern border.

[Question] Is there a possibility of Israel using a third party in order to come to some sort of indirect arrangement with the PLO?

[Answer] My personal opinion is no.

[Question] During your visit here to the United States--especially in the media--you certainly heard that eternal question which the Americans ask--what happens when the PLO recognizes Resolution 242 or Israel in one form or another. What do we do then?

[Answer] I do not want to answer your questions only in a negative manner. If the PLO does undergo a change, that change has to be such that the PLO ceases to be a military organization, that it becomes a political framework. This political framework will have to change its aims and be prepared to enter general deliberations, on how to solve the refugee problem, for example, that in principle it agree that the million Arab refugees who, since 1948, have lived in Jordan, view Jordan as their permanent home. I do not expect such a revolution tomorrow. But then it will not be the PLO. It will be a kind of political movement which wants to solve the problem that it faces on a political and realistic basis.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, reports are coming from Alexandria about public differences in the autonomy talks. What do you expect in these talks in the near future?

[Answer] I do not think that this issue will cause a breakdown in the talks. Not only this issue, there are many differences between us and the Americans, and certainly, between us and the Egyptians. I have not heard even once, neither from the Americans nor from the Egyptians, that they will make conditions for the continuation of the talks--that we change something in our policy which is unacceptable to them--settlements, bombing in Lebanon or things like that. I assume that the same applies to the [private] sale of land. They will say what they have to say, but they will not say that if we do not change this decision there is no point in continuing the talks.

DAYAN DISCUSSES U.S. ELECTIONS, YOUNG, LEBANON

TA281012 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Sep 79 p 3 TA

[By Ya'ir Kotler, New York]

[Text] "I praise President Carter, but I am not recommending who to vote for. This is in contrast to Yitzhaq Rabin, who not only praised President Nixon when he was the ambassador in Washington, but also recommended voting for him in the election," Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said last night in reply to a question by the MA'ARIV correspondent at the end of a conference of Israeli correspondents in the UN building in New York.

Mr Dayan--referring to the television interview he had given to Dan Shilon which was broadcast last night in Israel and around the world--emphasized that he had not changed his views on the PLO.

The foreign minister explained at length why, on his current visit to the United States (the minister took off last night on his way back to Israel) he had taken every opportunity of praising President Carter. "An Israeli foreign minister who behaved otherwise would cause grave damage to Israel. We cannot be so ungrateful as not to praise the efforts made by the President and Secretary of State Vance in the achievement of peace...." Dayan added that he was not getting involved in the internal affairs of the United States, but "the Jews of the United States should know that we very much value the administration's help." The choice of a president, he said, is not my affair, and it is not for me to say whether Carter is a good president or not.

"What can I do," Mr Dayan asked the journalists, "if Jews in the United States distort my words as being support for Carter in the election struggle raging here? It is the Jews' affair whether they vote for Carter or do not vote for him."

Mr Dayan said jokingly that neither Carter nor any one of his aides had appealed to him to support the President for a second term in office. Other main points from what the foreign minister said were:

--Ambassador Andrew Young's dismissal had created tension between blacks and Jews. If matters are put right and the truth is told--that Israel had no hand in the matter, but it was Young's relations with his superiors--relations between the two communities would improve.

--The meeting with Young had been positive. The blacks were happy about it. I told him that his coming to Israel as a private individual was one thing, but if his visit to the Middle East is aimed at a meeting with 'Arafat in an attempt at mediation, we would not accept this. We do not want mediators, I told Young, not even you.

--I have no details concerning a new U.S. plan for a cease-fire in Lebanon. The United States has not yet spoken with us about a plan for Lebanon. Nor has there been any mention of the sale of land to Jews in the territories.

--At the meeting with the UN secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, Moshe Dayan said that there would be no cease-fire in southern Lebanon as long as the PLO prepares attacks on Israel. At the meeting, which was held last night at the end of Mr Dayan's speech to the UN General Assembly, the issue of supervision in Sinai and the U.S. program for the implementation of the agreement were brought up.

--Dayan has not heard of any willingness by African countries to renew diplomatic relations with Israel.

EGYPT's GHALI INTERVIEWED ON GOVERNMENT IN TERRITORIES

TA271215 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Sep 79 pp 1, 7 TA

[Telegraphed by Ilan Efir, YEDI'OT AHARONOT envoy to Alexandria]

[Excerpt] Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, said in a special talk with YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday that Egypt demands the immediate cancellation of the Israeli military authorities in the territories.

"As long as the military authorities are still there--Dr Ghali said--it will be completely impossible to set up a Palestinian authority. We do not believe that there will be Palestinian representatives who will be prepared to establish the autonomous framework that will be subject to the Israeli military authorities and draw its powers from it."

A wide gap between the Israeli and Egyptian positions on the issue of the powers and responsibility of the autonomy authority was marked in the Alexandria autonomy talks yesterday.

The talks yesterday were described by their participants as "sharp and harsh." The head of the Israeli delegation, Dr Yosef Burg, last night described the talks as even fiercer and more difficult than the stormy argument developing in the morning's session.

Minister Burg said that the main argument in the evening's session revolved around the problem of autonomy "for inhabitants or territories." The Egyptians objected to the wording of "for the inhabitants and not for the territories."

The Egyptian prime minister, Dr Mustafa Khalil, said: "If you say that autonomy is slated for the inhabitants and not for the territories, how would we define specific water and land problems?"

At a certain stage of the argument Agriculture Minister Sharon said: "I do not find that we have deviated from the Camp David agreements. If you want to change the Camp David accords, we will also change them. We have given you oil and lands."

Khalil answered: "You have not given us lands. They are ours. You have given us peace and gotten peace in return. We do not want to change the Camp David agreements."

In the course of the discussion the Egyptian prime minister asked that Israel specify which of the military government's powers it is ready to give up.

Dr Burg summed up the results of yesterday's talks by saying: "There is no withdrawal and no progress."

In his talk with me the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, said: "We are still at the beginning of the road. We have not yet embarked on the right path. Israel's steps in the territories are illegal and harmful to the peace process. If there is no breakthrough, we will have to find other ways to promote the negotiations. We must remember that the goal of the deliberations is the establishment of autonomy for the Palestinians, and there will be no autonomy without them."

AUTONOMY NEGOTIATING TEAM RETURNS FROM ALEXANDRIA

TA271719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Sep 79 TA

[Text] Israel's delegation to the autonomy talks returned from Alexandria this evening. At Ben-Gurion Airport the delegation leader, Minister Yosef Burg, stated that progress had been made on some issues. Dr Burg said that a timetable had been determined for meetings between the working groups during the coming months and progress had been made on the issue of elections. On the other hand, the minister pointed out that there had been no progress on the issue of the authority of the administrative council.

BEGIN INSISTS PARTIES DECIDE ON MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES

TA280918 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Sep 79 pp 1, 11 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has not yet begun to discuss changes in the government, and it appears that the real debates will only start when Finance Minister Mr Simha Ehrlich returns from abroad. Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg, who was due to meet with Mr Begin this morning, intends to discuss the issue of the changes in portfolios with him and will express the NRP position.

Those close to Mr Begin reported this morning that the prime minister is firm in his opinion that it is the party centers that decide who their candidates are. However, if the liberals do not insist on retaining the finance portfolio, then the matter will be handed over to the prime minister. Various circles report increasing support for the proposal to appoint MK Yiga'el Horowitz to the post of minister of finance.

Various Likud groups said yesterday that if the Liberal Party decides to propose Yitzhaq Moda'i for the post of finance minister, the prime minister will oppose this.

REVIVAL MOVEMENT STRENGTHENED, OLD CIRCLE DISSOLVED

TA271256 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Sep 79 p 6 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] The circle of "the loyalists to the principles of the Herut Movement" was officially dispersed in a convention held in Tel Aviv the day before yesterday in preparation for the erection of the Revival Movement [Tenuat Hatehiya]. On that occasion several of the Herut center members announced they are joining the new movement.

Among those joining the movement are the Herut deputy mayor of Qiryat Shemona, Avraham Pinto, and the head of the Druze Zionist Club in Daliyat el-Karmel, Yusuf Nasir ad-Din. Club members who had formerly been members of the Herut Movement joined the Revival Movement with him. In the convention Nasir ad-Din said that he cannot put up with Begin's betrayal of Zionist principles. He added that thanks to his knowledge of the Arabs he can state that the peace agreement will lead to war and the autonomy to a Palestinian state. "We have not tied our fate with that of Israel and we have not served in the IDF only to yield to the Arabs."

Also announcing their membership in the Revival Movement were poet Shlomo Skolsky and the editor of HA'UMA [THE NATION] magazine, Avraham Heller.

The convention called on Herut and Likud Knesset members who voted against the peace treaty or abstained "to give an account to themselves and stop confusing the public by standing on the side or sitting on the fence." Herut members who are opposed to the agreement were called on to retire from the movement "which does not have a right to exist and deteriorates the country."

MK Ge'ula Kohen called in the convention for repeated elections in which the political camps will be identified according to their support of or objection to the peace agreement. Hanan Porat also spoke in the convention.

TWO BOMBS EXPLODE IN TEL AVIV, INJURIES REPORTED

TA271807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Sep 79 TA

[Text] About an hour and a half ago two explosive devices went off in Allenby Street in Tel Aviv. Six people were injured, most of them lightly. The injured were immediately evacuated to Hadassah and Ichilov hospitals and two have already been released. The small charges were placed in garbage containers near house No 79 in Allenby Street. The police closed the area to conduct searches. A few minutes later the road was opened to traffic after it transpired that there were no further charges.

WEST BANK MAYOR GOES TO JORDAN AFTER TRAVEL BAN REVERSAL

TA270735 Jerusalem POST in English 27 Sep 79 p 3 TA

[By Ian Black, Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, mayor of Halhul, left for Jordan yesterday on municipal business after having received permission from the Judaea and Samaria military government.

The authorities' decision reversed their previous stand that Milhim, an open supporter of the PLO who has been in the forefront of anti-Israel activities in the West Bank, would not be allowed to leave the country.

Several weeks ago he was refused permission to attend pro-Palestinian meetings in the U. S. in which the Ramallah and Hebron mayors, Karim Khalaf and Fahd al-Qawasimi, are currently participating. Bassam ash-Shak'a, mayor of Nabulus, was also prevented from attending.

As recently as yesterday, there were reports that Milhim was still being prevented from going to Jordan, and it was rumored in East Jerusalem and the West Bank that the military authorities were attempting to prevent the Halhul mayor from meeting U.S. black leader Jesse Jackson, who crossed the Allenby Bridge to Amman yesterday.

Senior military government sources, however, said there was no significance in the sudden decision to let Milhim visit Jordan.

A number of other West Bank leaders are presently in Amman, apparently seeking cash support for their municipalities from the joint Jordanian-PLO committee which deals with the affairs of the "occupied territories."

By the end of the week, when Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim at-Tawil is also due to leave for Jordan, almost the whole of the political leadership of the West Bank will be abroad.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REPORTS ON MEETING WITH KHOMEYNI

LD272210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Excerpts] Sadeq Tabataba'i political deputy to the prime minister and government spokesman, and Dr Kamal Kharazi, acting under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, this evening met Imam Khomeyni at his residence and conferred with him for about an hour.

Reporting on the meeting to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the government spokesman said that in the course of the meeting the situation in the Persian Gulf, Khuzestan and Kordestan, as well as the region's political changes, were reported to the imam. The imam in turn made his views known about the situation. The imam's views will be communicated to the government.

Referring to complaints made by families of agents of the former regime whose property has become the subject of an order of confication by the public prosecutor's office that in certain cases improprer confiscations have taken place, the government spokesman said that the matter was reported to the imam, who issued the necessary orders to the office of the public proseeutor.

Tabataba'i added: Also present at the meeting was Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni [Ayatollah Khomeyni's son]. He informed the government representatives of some of the complaints received by the office of the imam from the people.

Answering a question put to him by the PARS NEWS AGENCY with regard to criticisms made against government organizations and agencies affiliated to the government, the government spokesman said: Obviously no organization is faultless in the aftermath of the upheavals brought about after the triumph of the revolution. No cabinet minister or director claims that he is in total control of his department or that he is satisifed with its operation. However, the criticism and accusations leveled are mostly unwarranted or exaggerated. As for those criticisms which are considered to be rational, necessary measures have already been taken to the extent possible.

Concerning the future of the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] managing director, Tabataba'i said: As pointed out this morning by Interior Minister Sabbaghian, we will be witnessing certain changes in the higher echelons of the country in the near future. However, he did not elaborate on the extent of the changes. The government spokesman denied a report carried by one of the morning dailies today about the dismissal of Nazih [managing director of NIOC], adding that the report is false.

REPORT ON DISSOLUTION OF ISLAMIC COMMITTEES DENIED

LD272014 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] The central office of the Islamic committee today denied the report concerning the dissolution of Islamic committees which was published in one of Tehran's dailies today. An announcement from the central office of the Islamic committee further said that the story originated from a misunderstanding that arose from the statement issued by the Central Committee.

KHOMEYNI OFFICE DENIES PARTS OF PUBLISHED INTERVIEW

LD271828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued this evening by the office of Imam Khomeyni:

In the name of God, this office denies certain parts of the imam's interview given to Mrs Oriana Fallaci and published on the front page of KEYHAN today. The office announces for the last time that if the media in general and the press in particular intend to carry anything concerning the imam, they must contact the office of the imam about its accuracy.

EXPULSION OF CLERGYMAN FROM KUWAIT REPORTED

LD271822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Abbas al-Mahri, the imam's representative in Kuwait, has arrived in Qom with his family. Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Mahri, who was recently appointed by the imam to lead Friday prayers in Kuwait, told the PARS correspondent in Qom: My appointment by the imam to lead Friday prayers in Kuwait did not have anything to do with my expulsion from that country. He emphasized that the announcement of Jerusalem Day by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, has broken the backs of all those who oppose Islam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Abbas al-Mahri had been one of the best religious strugglers in Kuwait for more than 40 years. Some time ago, he returned to Kuwait after visiting Iran and meeting Imam Khomeyni. According to reports, a few days after his return to Kuwait, the mosque in which he used to pray and where Muslim intellectuals, be they Sunnis or Shi'ites, discussed ways of securing the rights of the oppressed people and of reforming the consultative assembly of Kuwait, was surrounded by the police and closed down. It was forbidden to pray in that mosque. The Muslim people of Kuwait, who were angered by this action, demonstrated and marched in protest and the result was a confrontation with the police and the arrest and injury of some of these people.

Following this incident, his house was surrounded by the military forces of Kuwait and his identity cards were taken away by the Kuwaiti security service. His citizenship was taken away from him and he was warned to leave Kuwait in 24 hours.

It was before the news about the house of Hojjat Ol-Eslam al-Mahri being surrounded had reached Qom that he was appointed to lead Friday prayers by Imam Khomeyni. After his house was surrounded in Kuwait and the warning given to him by the Kuwaiti security service, Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Mahri was taken with his family to Kuwait airport and was seen off by a big crowd of Kuwait people.

He arrived in Tehran at 1830 yesterday.

COUNCIL OF EXPERTS APPROVES EIGHT ARTICLES

LD271322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] The 32d session of the final review of the constitution was held this morning. At this session, which was convened under the chairmanship of Dr Beheshti, eight further articles of the draft constitution were discussed and approved. I add that these articles concerned the operation of the national consultative assembly and that ballots were cast in each case. Details of the articles are as follows:

Article 56, with 58 votes in favor and 14 abstentions, states: The majlis can legislate on all matters within the limits of its powers as prescribed by the constitution.

Article, 57 with 58 votes in favor, 1 vote against and 6 abstentions, states: The majlis cannot enact laws that are contrary to the principles and commands of the country's official religion or to the constitution. Ruling on this matter from the point of view of Islam rests with the majority vote of the Foqaha [experts in Islamic jurisprudence] in the council of guardians and from the constitutional standpoint with the majority vote of all the members of the majlis.

Article 58, which was approved with 60 votes in favor, 2 votes against and 5 abstentions, says: Each deputy is responsible before the whole nation and is entitled to comment on all aspects of the country's domestic and foreign issues.

Article 59: The position of deputy is entrusted to the individual and is not transferable to others. The majlis may not delegate authority to legislate to any individual or group. However, should it become necessary, it can delegate authority to legislate certain laws to its own internal committees. In such cases, these laws shall be enforced on an experimental basis for a period set by the majlis, taking into account Article 57. The foregoing principle was approved with 52 votes in favor, 2 votes against and 13 abstentions.

Article 60, with 57 votes in favor, 2 votes against and 8 abstentions, states: The interpretation and definition of ordinary laws come within the competence of the majlis. This article shall not prevent judges from interpreting the law in establishing rights.

Article 61, with 64 votes in favor, 3 abstentions and no opposition, states: Legislative bills will be submitted to the majlis after the approval of the Council of Ministers. Legislative proposals may be debated in the majlis provided they have been proposed by at least 15 deputies of the majlis.

Article 62, with 58 votes in favor, 3 votes against and 5 abstentions, states: Legislative proposals and suggestions and amendments which the deputies offer with regard to legislative bills and which result in a reduction in public revenue or an increase in public expenditure, may be debated in the majlis if they also specify ways of compensating for the reduced revenue or securing resources for new expenditure.

Article 63, approved with 65 votes in favor and 1 abstention, states: The majlis is entitled to investigate and question any aspect of the country's affairs.

Articles 67, 68 Approved

LD271914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Summary] Articles 67 and 68 of the constitution were ratified today.

Article 67, which was ratified by 41 votes in favor, 1 vote against and 5 abstentions, is as follows: Granting and acquiring of internal and external loans and grants by the government must be approved by the national consultative assembly.

Article 68, which was ratified by 46 votes in favor, 1 vote against and 7 abstentions reads: The employment of foreign advisers by the government is forbidden unless needed and felt necessary, in which case such employment must be approved by the national consultative assembly.

Mokri Proposal

LD271952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1717 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] ETTELA'AT reports the proposal of Dr Mohammad Mokri, Iran's ambassador to the Soviet Union, to the Council of Experts:

The vice-regency of the chief theologian, the leadership of the Islamic revolution; due to my experiences and the responsibility which I feel toward the revolution and also as a committed and responsible person in the Islamic revolution and also as one who is familiar with the political currents and the basic ideologies of the various regimes in the world and bearing in mind that the Iranian revolution has been unique in history and in the world and, naturally, has no need to follow any foreign model, I propose that in the Iranian constitution, which is being studied and approved at present in the Council of Experts, some principles based on the following concepts should be included:

1. His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the leader and founder of the Islamic revolution of Iran, who holds the office of vice-regency of the cause of God and the imamate of the community, should he deem it appropriate and find it in harmony with the interests of the country, is invited to accept the presidency of the country forever or for a period that he deems right in order to prevent a multiplicity of centers of power and decision-making. His great eminence is free to appoint a prime minister or else to rule the country through the relevant deputies and ministers. Also, should he deem it necessary, he is free to appoint a qualified person who would, naturally, also receive the support of all the people to act as president.

2. In the constitution, the term nation [mellat] should only be used to refer to the entire Iranian people. The people should seriously refrain from using the term nation or nationalities [mellatha] to describe the people of one of a few provinces of Iran. Also, the word minority [aqalliyat] should not be used for the people who speak another dialect in addition to the Persian language. The term minority should only be used when referring to followers of the official sects recognized in Iran, namely the Zoroastrians, the Christians and the Jews.

3. The Persian script and language, like the religion of Islam and the national integrity of Iran and the right of national sovereignty, should be unchangeable and eternal and no legislative body or local council may have the right to change them.

BAZARGAN RECEIVES COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR

LD261954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Sep 79 LD

[Text] This morning the Colombian ambassador to Iran met with Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan. At this meeting the Colombian ambassador to Iran emphasized his country's support of bilateral relations and informed the prime minister of his country's support of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

NEW ILAM GOVERNOR COMMENTS ON PROVINCE'S PROBLEMS

LD272008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Interior Minister Hashem Sabbaghian has appointed Kiomars Farjam as governor general of Ilam.

The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that the new governor general of Ilam visited various parts of Ilam, the Corps of the Revolution Guards, the hospital of the reconstruction crusade headquarters and the Department of Education and Training for 3 hours this morning and gave orders to relevant officers concerning solutions to problems and bottlenecks. The new governor general of Ilam said, in an interview: [read by announcer]

I came to this province about 10 years ago. Whatever has been done in this province has been window dressing; I feel that nothing basic and fundamental has been done in the region. Among the problems of this province are power cuts, lack of hygiene and there is also a sewer in Ilam that must be put right.

Ilam is a border town and a sensitive one and backwardness is obvious in it in all aspects; to add to this backwardness there is a shortage of time and manpower and an abundance of credit.

I have not come to this province with any prejudgments. I hope that with the help of the [word indistinct] of Islam and the Muslim people of the region, the existing misunderstandings will be cleared and, hand-in-hand, attempts will be made toward developing this border town and the entire province and toward helping it's oppressed people.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' OVERTURN FOOD TRUCK IN KORDESTAN

LD271854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] The development bureau of Imam Khomeyni in Kordestan has announced that following the orders issued by Imam Khomeyni, it has equipped itself for the development of this region. In spite of the conspiracies of the counterrevolution, which is always trying to prevent the fulfillment of this holy goal, and the continuation of the domination of foreigners and colonialism and [words indistinct] that commits murder and plunders people, it is active and all the brave youth who are ready to help toward achieving this goal will continue their endeavors. It is considered necessary to expose the real antihuman face of these conspirators who are preventing the execution of development projects and who are even preventing foodstuffs from getting through to the deprived and oppressed people.

Counterrevolutionaries, in order to prevent foodstuffs from getting through to the people, have attacked the brothers who were going to distribute foodstuffs to the villages around Marivan. They overturned a truck containing the foodstuffs and the passengers in the truck were rescued with the help of villagers. The attackers fled the scene shortly after overturning the truck.

The counterrevolutionaries have also attacked a car carrying an engineering group of the bureau of the construction crusade in Paveh, who are cooperating with the imam's development headquarters in Kordestan, near the village of Tazehabad on the way to their winter quarters. The school porter accompanying this group was martyred and two others were injured in the head and leg. They are being treated at Kermanshah hospital. Following an inspection of the area, it was discovered that the car was fired on at least 200 times.

The imam's development bureau and all the Islamic forces of the region consider it their duty to try their best to answer any conspiracy by the colonialists and will not stop short of sacrificing their lives for the betterment of the condition of the oppressed. God's promise will soon be fulfilled.

[Signed] The development bureau of Imam Khomeyni in Kordestan.

AFGHANISTAN

'REMAINING PART' OF AMIN PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

LD272304 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

["Remaining part" of interview given by Hafizollah Amin, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, to a group of foreign journalists--read by announcer]

[Text] REUTER correspondent: Question: In the content of your speech it is inferred that some people have been detained unjustly. What do you comment and who is responsible for this?

Answer: That is why a commission was set up to study the matter. It is the duty of the corresponding commission to find out who is responsible. I cannot mention the name of any specific person or organization or special organ to be responsible in this regard without studying relevant (?authentic) documents.

REUTER correspondent: Question: Then how do you know that such acts have been committed unjustly?

Answer: There were persons who had been imprisoned unjustly. No doubt there were complaints and grievances. It was for this reason that I (?missioned) a commission to talk to the prisoners and study their cases. As a result of this study, many will be released and those who are guilty and criminals shall be punished accordingly. Therefore, it is the duty of the commission, and I shall not tell you here something which is not verified by the commission during the process of factfinding.

Federal Republic of Germany television correspondent: Question: We have been informed that the government has declared general amnesty to those who have gone outside the country or are living in exile abroad. Will this amnesty also include persons who were members of Parcham Party and have gone outside the country? Can they return back and join with you in the state affairs?

Answer: The term Parcham Party is the outcome of the imagination of the enemies of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. There never exists any party in the name of Parcham or (?Parchami). Anyone who is outside the country as a result of interference of imperialism and reaction in our internal affairs and wants to return to his homeland or anyone who has been deceived and displaced by the conspiracy of the enemies of the revolution can return to their homes and live in the country.

Federal Republic of Germany television correspondent: Question: Will anyone be executed after trial?

Answer: It is up to the courts to take the decision. I am not a judge.

REUTER correspondent: Question: Can we expect that with the start of the new leadership in Afghanistan the social reforms will be accelerated?

Answer: You can expect expansion and deepening of revolutionary reforms. I do not know what you mean by acceleration. I think if you use this word it could be misinterpreted. However, we will bring reforms [words indistinct] cope with the special requirements and conditions of our society. For the realization of our aspirations we will never give our revolutionary (?reforms) adventuristic (?forms).

Our guide for our action will always be laws governing social evolution and we will take into consideration the real conditions of the Afghan society.

Question: How do you evaluate your relations with the Soviet Union?

Answer: Excellent. Extraordinary. Excellent.

Question: To what extent has the number of Soviet advisers increased in your country?

Answer: I do not know how much their number has increased. Previously I have said that their number was between 1,000 and 1,500, but I am sure it has not increased much and it is almost the same.

Federal Republic of Germany television correspondent:

Question: With the coming of the collective leadership and declaration of people's security can we expent a cut in the number of those who have taken refuge outside the country?

Answer: Those who want to return to Afghanistan (?or) those who have been in Afghanistan but have been displaced can return to their homes along with our warm welcome. We have declared a general amnesty.

Los Angeles TIMES correspondent: Question: Sir, we have heard that three former ministers of the cabinet--namely Aslam Watanjar, Shir Jan Mazduryar and Golabzoy--accompanied by the ex-president of AGSA [Organization for the Protection of the Interests of Afghanistan] have fled away. Do you confirm this report?

Answer: I do not know.

Question: Don't you know where they are?

Answer: No.

Question: Are they around here, can we reach them by telephone?

Answer: I don't know.

REUTER correspondent: Question: Can you consider the (?path) of the new leadership as a beginning of leniency in treating the antirevolutionaries and relaxation of the situation?

Answer: If imperialsim and reaction leave us alone the situation will be very much (?relaxed), but if imperialism imagines continuing its actions, the situation will continue in the same way. However, we prepare ourselves well to defend our revolution after this, too.

Los Angeles TIMES correspondent: Question: Can you consider the three ex-ministers and Asadollah [former AGSA president] as antirevolutionary elements?

Answer: [Passage indistinct]

Question: Haven't they performed antirevolutionary acts?

Answer: They should be first (?talked with).

Federal Republic of Germany television correspondent: Question: What stand would you take toward Islam?

Answer: Our stand toward Islam is profound respect to Islam, which is and will be the religion of our toilers.

Question: What would be the role of Islam in Afghanistan in the future?

Answer: Muslims of all over the country will perform the sacred Islamic rituals with full freedom. The people of Afghanistan are proud to have the freedom of performing their religious ceremonies.

(?Radio) correspondent of the Federal Republic of Germany: Question: In the past we experienced difficulty in dispatching our news. Will you instruct the authorities concerned to provide facilities in this connection?

Answer: Yes, you are completely free to communicate any news which you may want. Our society will be a free and democratic one. You can collect any news from any place you may want and [words indistinct] any place you may want.

Question: Likewise we had difficulty in the past with regard to (?acquiring a) visa.

Answer: How did you all come to Afghanistan? Weren't you given permission to enter into Afghanistan? Weren't your stay visas extended? Any greater number of journalists who want to come to Afghanistan will be welcomed; they will not only be permitted to come to Afghanistan but will also be welcome.

Hafizollah Amin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at the end of his interview said: It seems that you do not have any other questions. At the end I expect that this will not be your last visit to Afghanistan. I want you to come again to our country and see the progress of our revolution at every stage and compare it with the other one. Afghanistan will be an open society for journalists. Journalists of any country can come here and collect facts about our revolution. The revolution is forging ahead under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and with the support of all the toilers of Afghanistan. I hope and I am certain that as journalists you have got full information about our aspirations and interests and I am sure you will honestly tell your people what I have told you, and in so doing you will maintain your high moral standards.

JIHAD CALLED AGAINST AMIN; TWO DISTRICTS FALL

BK271240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 27 Sep 79 BK

[Text] Peshawar, northwestern Pakistan, 27 Sep (AFP)--One of Afghanistan's best-known religious leaders, Miagul Jan, called here today for a "jihad" (holy war) against the new Afghan President Hafizollah Amin.

Miagul Jan, 72, previously had appealed for a jihad against President Nur Mohammed Taraki. His overthrow on Sept 16 was a "sign of God's will", said Miagul Jan, adding that Mr. Amin's policy was similar to Mr. Taraki's and "contrary to Islam". Mr. Jan took refuge in Pakistan last March 1.

Radio Kabul reported last night that 269 prisoners were freed in three provincial cities under President Amin's order against internment without proof of guilt.

Meanwhile, two more districts in the eastern Afghan PROVINCE of Nangarhar have fallen into rebel hands, it was announced yesterday by the Paiman Itihad Islami, an alliance of four right-wing religious groups of rebels.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES 170 MORE PRISONERS

GF261740 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 79 GF

[Excerpt] Consistent with the slogan "Security, Legality and Justice" as declared in the Khalqi message of the heroic commander of the Great Sawr Revolution, Hafizollah Amin, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, 145 prisoners were released from [name indistinct] prison and another 25 were released from [name indistinct] prison after the authorized commission reported on the status of the prisoners.

PRESIDENT AMIN RECEIVES FOREIGN ENVOYS 27 SEP

LD272326 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Hafizollah Amin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, today received for introductory meetings His Excellency (Choudhury) Mansur Murshed, the ambassador of Bangladesh; His Excellency Ilhan Bakay, the ambassador of Turkey; His Excellency (Hans Dieter Delfont), charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the FRG; His Excellency Dr Richard [name indistinct] charge d'affaires of the Austrian Embassy; His Excellency Amstutz, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy; and His Excellency Zdenek Karmelita, the Czechoslovak Ambassador in Kabul.

AMIN APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF NEW PAKISTANI ENVOY

LD272328 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 27 Sep 79 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the agreement of His Excellency [name indistinct] as the ambassador of the Republic of Pakistan, requested by that country, has been issued by Hafizollah Amin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council, and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, recently.

MORE CONGRATULATIONS ON AMIN'S APPOINTMENT

GF261700 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 79 GF

[Text] The information office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that on the occasion of the appointment of Hafizollah Amin as secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, congratulatory telegrams have been received in Kabul addressed to him from Souphanouvong, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Kim il-song, General secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fahri Koruturk, president of Turkey; and Bulent Ecevit, prime minister of that country.

INDIA

CABINET PANEL ALLOTS MORE FOODGRAINS TO DROUGHT AREAS

BK261551 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0852 GMT 26 Sep 79 BK

[Text] The drought affected areas in the country would get 1 million tonnes of additional foodgrains under the Food for Work Programme. This is in addition to the 1.5 million tonnes already allocated for this year. A decision to this effect was taken by the cabinet Committee on Drought which met in New Delhi on September 25 under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Chavan, reports AIR [All India Radio].

Agriculture Minister Brahm Prakash told newsmen after the meeting that the railways would accord the highest priority to the movement of food grains, salt, coal and other essential commodities to the needy areas. To save the standing kharif [autumn] crops and promote good rabi [spring] sowing, top priority would be given to the allocation of high speed diesel oil and electricity for running pumps, tubewells and other farm equipment. If necessary, additional quantities of high speed diesel oil would be imported.

AFP: DROUGHT TO CAUSE FOOD SHORTFALL OF 12 MILLION TONS

BK261553 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 25 Sep 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Sep (AFP)--A shortfall of about 12 million tons is likely in this year's winter foodgrain production, mainly because of drought which has ravaged 160 districts in various states of India.

Agriculture Minister Brahm Prakash, who gave this information at a press conference here today, however, maintained that availability of foodgrains was quite satisfactory and the stock position "very comfortable".

The winter production last year was nearly 79 million tons and this year's production is likely to [be] around 67 million tons. However, firm estimates could not be made so early, he added.

As for the summer production, the minister said that the shortfall might be marginal and "we may pull through".

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, secretary in the ministry, who was also present at the press conference, said that the extent of summer sowing would be known in another month. "If everything goes well, this year's production may be the same as last year's 53 million tons."

Mr. Prakash said that the worst affected crops were paddy, maize, jowar [a kind of millet] and millets.

There would be a marginal fall in cotton production. As against 7,930,000 bales last year, this season the production would be 7,870,000 bales, a drop of less than 1 percent.

Jute production is estimated at 5,230,000 bales compared to 6,400,000 bales last year, he said.

Asked if the export of foodgrains would be banned, the minister said the country's foodgrain exports, such as those to Afghanistan and Vietnam, were marginal and these commitments would be fulfilled.

CHIEF MINISTERS DEMAND ACTION AGAINST HOARDERS, PROFITEERS

BK271636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 79 BK

[Excerpts] The chief ministers conference has unanimously agreed that the present difficult economic situation will have to be tackled in a concerted and determined manner by both the central and state governments. They were strongly of the view that stringent action should be taken against the black-marketeers, hoarders and profiteers. It was agreed that the Essential Commodities Act and the various control orders issued under it would be vigorously enforced. Twenty-eight states and union territories were represented at the meeting, which was held at the initiative of the prime minister, Mr Charan Singh, in New Delhi today.

Replying to some of the points raised by the chief ministers, Mr Charan Singh denied that the last budget had contributed to the present rise in prices. He also told them that whatever he might be accused of, nobody could accuse him of being a friend of the landlords.

About the law and order situation, the chief ministers pledged to take all necessary measures to insure free and fair elections. While some thought that a 1-day poll would be possible, several others wanted it to be spread over to several days. They said the law and order situation is satisfactory and under control except for some local problems in some northeastern states.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Chavan, urged them to see that peaceful conditions prevailed, especially on the communal front. Arrangements should be initiated right now as the tempo of political activity is likely to grow every day.

Earlier, opening the conference, the prime minister said the government may have to consider more drastic measures to deal effectively with economic offenders. He observed that the present punitive provisions appeared to be insufficient to tackle them.

The prime minister said that economic offenders will have to be treated sternly without any compunction. If personal or political considerations are eschewed while dealing with them, there will be ample justification to employ drastic measures to bring such people to book.

DELHI EXPERIENCING ACUTE POWER SHORTAGE

BK271609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 79 BK

[Text] Delhi is facing acute power shortage. The situation has worsened with the total stoppage of power generation at the Bhadarpur thermal power station this morning. The Delhi electricity supply undertaking is depending on its own generation of 200 megawatts supplemented by marginal assistance from neighboring systems.

A station spokesman said the Bhadarpur station resumed some supplies in the afternoon and is giving Delhi between 30 to 40 megawatts. However, there is still a shortage of over 100 megawatts. As a result, the capital was subjected to heavy load-shedding.

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION IN KARNATAKA FAILS

BK271401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 79 BK

[Text] The Karnataka assembly today rejected the Congress-I sponsored no-confidence motion against the 18-month-old Devraj Urs ministry by 133 votes. No member supported the motion.

Before the voting took place, the Congress-I and the Janata members staged a walkout separately. The Republican Party of India, Gawai group, the CPI [Communist Party of India]. the Muslim League and one of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samity members voted for the ruling party. The Janata members walked out in protest against the government failure to take follow-up action on the Grover Commission report. The Congress-I members accused the government of pressure tactics.

Earlier, in his reply, the chief minister, Mr Devraj Urs, rejected the Congress-I demand for his resignation. Mr Urs pointed out that even Mrs Gandhi did not resign from prime ministership after the Congress split in 1969 or when she was unseated by the Allahabad high court.

Meanwhile, the Janata leader, Mr S.R. (Bomai), has been once again recognized as the leader of the opposition in the assembly. Mr (Bomai) lost his position to Mr Gundu Rao--Congress-I--on the 18th of this month. The five members of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samity and one Congress-I member joining the Janata Party, the party strength has gone up to 42; the Congress-I has 41 members in the house. The assembly has since been adjourned sine die.

URS FORMALLY ASSUMES CONGRESS PRESIDENCY

BK280909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 79 BK

[Text] Mr Devraj Urs today formally took over as the Congress president from Mr Swaran Singh.

PAKISTAN

ELECTION COMMISSION MEETS IN ISLAMABAD 27 SEP

BK280408 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Sep 79 BK

[Text] A meeting of officials of the Election Commission was held in Islamabad today to discuss arrangements for the printing of ballot papers for the general elections. It discussed the time schedule for the printing of ballot papers, the preparation of blocks, approximate number of names of candidates which could be contained on a ballot paper and the size of the ballot paper. The security measures to be adopted during the printing of the ballot papers in various printing presses were also discussed.

A press note of the Election Commission says all candidates to the forthcoming national and provincial assemblies elections are required orally to take the oath contained in the nomination form before the returning officer at any time on or before the date of scrutiny. Making of oath or oaths orally is in addition to the condition that the form of the oath in the nomination paper must also be signed by the canddidate.

DEFENSE MINISTER SUPPORTS HAQ VIEWS ON PARTIES

BK281054 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Sep 79 BK

The defense minister, Mr Ali Ahmed Kahn Talpur, has said the local bodies poll has marked the beginning of the process of the restoration of democracy in the country from the grassroots upward. Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi today, he said it would now be easier for the people to have their problems resolved at the local level. Things should now be better for them.

Referring to the present political situation in the country, he said the President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq's (?supposition) that none of the political parties [which] are in the field would be able to form a government was correct.